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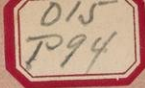
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PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER.

July
JUNE 1892.

JULY 15



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E. F. QUIGLEY, Editor and Publisher.
UNIONVILLE, MISSOURI.

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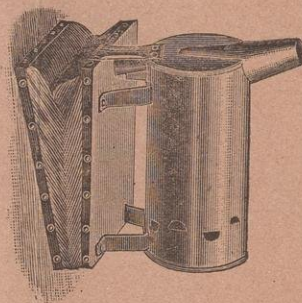
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A Monthly Apicultural Journal.

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E. F. QUIGLEY, Editor and Publisher.

VOL. II.

UNIONVILLE, MO., JULY 15, 1892.

NO. 6.

A CHANGE.

We have bought out the other members of the Bee-Keeper Publishing Co. and contracted for the printing. Our readers may expect the PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER more regularly hereafter. We kindly thank you all for your liberal patronage and hope to have you continue with us; in return we will do our best to give you a journal second to none.

It would be hard to find a state meeting that can beat Missouri on a good program.

The publication of the *Bee Age* has been dropped for the present. A good time to drop it.

Make it a point to get your bees to store their honey above the brood nest early in the season.

The Leahy Mfg. Co., Higginsville, Mo., are making round end perforations in their zinc honey boards.

The Famous Manufacturing Co., have remitted for their account since our April number was mailed.

Queens crowd their brood toward the south side of the hive in early spring. We have been switching some of them around with a view of getting more brood and think

these colonies are some ahead of those not turned around. We may be mistaken, does any one know any thing about it.

To date, (July 7) we have had but one swarm from forty-five colonies—the result of wintering all young queens.

If all who think of starting a new bee journal carry out their plans there will be a very large crop of them in the near future.

Every honey producer should read carefully the essay by C. C. Clemons, in May number. He has given us some good points on grading honey.

We will want some copy for the August P. B. K. Would like to hear from all, if only to let us know about your bees, how much honey you are getting, etc.

Of all the feeders we ever used the Hill and Soper are the best. For feeding inside the hive, the former is the best; but for an entrance feeder, the Soper beats them all.

We have shipped a number of queens this season, that if our customers would sell, they can get a fancy price for them. Anyone having one of these they can spare will please write us, as we have

customers for more than we can supply.

Rev. L. L. Langstroth is not very favorably impressed with the Punic bees, after carefully examining them on his visit to A. I. Root at Medina, Ohio.

We want to say to those who are thinking of subscribing for a bee journal, but are afraid that the new ones have not come to stay, that you will get the PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER the time paid for, or your money will be returned.

We wish some of the friends of the black bees had the forty colonies we bought this spring. We are changing the queens as fast as we can raise them and fill our orders, but we will have to be contented with a lot of them around for about two months more.

Vol. 1. No. 1., of the *National Bee-Keeper*, published by Geo. W. Penn, St. Louis, Mo., is on our desk. It presents a neat appearance, with some room for improvement in apicultural news. Now that Missouri has two bee journals the business ought to take a boom.

Among a lot of queens bought in the fall of '90 there was about half a dozen very slender ones. These done as well during the season of '91 as any of the others did with the exception of the last two weeks of the season. We did not think any thing of it at the time, but on examination this spring we found they had all died early in the winter. We always pinch their heads off now when ever we find one, as

we do not consider them of much value and are not properly reared in the first place. Such queens always give out at a time when we most need them.

One queen shipped early in the spring laid only drone eggs in worker comb. We discovered it as soon as the cells were capped, and wrote our customer who found on examination that she was doing the same for him. Another queen was sent as soon as we learned who was entitled to it.

Owing to ill health Thomas G. Newman & Son have sold the *American Bee Journal* to Geo. W. York & Co. Mr. York has been associated in the *A. B. J.* office for several years. Newman & Son will continue the supply business and the publication of the *Home Journal* at the old stand.

The colonies that gathered the largest amount of white honey last season are the best ones we have now. Mr. G. W. Demaree said last year, that these colonies that gathered white honey while others were gathering honey dew, just happened to find it, but we don't believe it for they had to go two to three miles for it. We think they were better rustlers.

A large number of reports have been received at this office regarding the conditions of bees. The prospects are very poor for a crop of white clover honey owing to the colonies being weak from bad wintering and a cold wet spring. Clover is very slow blooming here, the

rain so packed the ground that it does not grow as we would like to see it. We are still in hopes (June 15) and have some large colonies ready in case there is a show of honey.

Prof. Wiley had better spend a few seasons with some practical bee-keeper before he makes any more wild statements about honey. The government will set up some wise professor, to tell us what honey is made of, that wouldn't know a honey bee from a mud wasp. It is time to put a stop to such business.

W. Z. Hutchinson thinks we are sometimes "penny wise and pound foolish" in the matter of queen cages. We lost some queens last season, but the fault was in the candy and not the cage. Our cage is the largest of any of those that mails for one cent. We are having the best of success this season and have made some long shipments.

The dream of our subscriber, Jan. P. B. K., is about to materialize. It is announced that Henry Alley will have golden Punics before the close of '92. Mr. A. remarked last season that the Punics would put gold in your pocket in place of carrying it on their little backs. These ebony bees must not fulfilled their promises in their purity.

The discussion on Black vs Italian bees has brought out quite a number of friends of the blacks. For box hives and old style methods, the black bee is undoubtedly the best, but with modern methods the

Italian is far superior. We admit the blacks have many points of merit. As to their gentleness there is not so much difference in the hands of an experienced apiarist.

We are leaning towards a hive larger than eight frames L size and have been using a Heddon brood chamber in connection with our eight frame L hives with very satisfactory results. The eight frame is enough for a brood chamber; but when the honey is to be stored there until ready for the sections, it is too small in our opinion.

This season, so far, has been very unfavorable for the bees. We never before had our young queens so slow commencing to lay. June started out with better weather, white clover is just beginning to bloom, we expect to get our queen rearing in full blast at once. By the time this journal reaches you all our orders will be filled and a large quantity ahead for future orders.

The *American Bee-Keeper* never misses an opportunity to hit one of its contemporaries a lick. It says the *P. B. K.* is about "two months behind, but after the busy season is over it will have time to catch up." Only missed it one month. We will be out nearly on time for July and after that will be out on time. The *P. B. K.* has not got a hundred thousand dollar supply business to back it.

We have the Pratt Automatic Self-Hiver on trial and hope to be able to report in August *P. B. K.* how it works, although we are

quite confident it is going to be all right. We second the advice given below and taken from July 1st *Gleanings*.

**AUTOMATIC SWARMERS, AND HOW THEY
WORK AT THE HOME OF THE
HONEY BEES.**

We have had two swarms come out and hive themselves automatically, *a la* Pratt. The devices have worked to perfection. The swarm we mentioned on page 456, last issue, as having come out, not only hived itself, but the entire swarm seems to have taken up with their new quarters and gone to house-keeping, while the parent hive has nothing but young bees, sealed brood, and queen cells, just as it ought to have. The other swarm must have come out while we were at church on Sunday. At any rate in the fore part of the week we found it in its new quarters as successfully and nicely hived as if we had put them there ourselves.

For the first time we began to feel really hopeful and enthusiastic in regard to the automatic swarmers; and it now appears to us that the idea first made public by E. L. Pratt, of hiving the bees automatically in a hive, *the entrance to which they have long been accustomed*, is the key to success; and even Mr. Alley, in his latest swarmer, we notice, has adopted the Pratt idea, although if we remember correctly, he at first condemned it. Mr. Pratt's automatic swarmers, both on the same principle, were illustrated on page 199, March 1, and page 318, May 1. Of the two, we prefer the latter, as does also Mr. Pratt, we believe. The last named requires only one bottom-board, and any one who has the ordinary Dove-tailed hives and furniture can construct it by buying of Mr. Pratt his bee escape honey-board. We should mention, also, that these swarmers

are so constructed that the hives may be left for ten days or two weeks after the swarm has issued, and that every thing will go on all right.

Other swarmers may be a success; but a number of reports have shown that some of them, at least, hived only from a third to a half of the bees, the other portion going back into the old hive. It should be thoroughly understood that we have had only two swarms come out and hive themselves so far, and that neither one nor two swallows make a summer; therefore it would not be wise for any one to invest largely in any one of the plans at first. Before the season is over, however, we shall probably know more—that is, providing those who have them under experiment will carefully report results.

**TO STRAIGHTEN CROOKED
COMBS.**

A large number of the combs in colonies we bought this spring had old style simplicity frames and comb guards, and nearly all the combs built so crooked that it was hard to handle any of them without breaking them and killing bees.

We are now placing them in upper stories above queen excluders on our strongest hives. After the brood hatches these combs can be pressed straight or cut and fit in new frames. When we take a crooked frame of brood from a colony another frame of brood is taken from the strong colony and given back to replace the crooked one taken out. By so doing both colonies are kept strong by this plan and in a short time you will get all your combs nicely straightened without any loss of brood. If there is any honey remaining in the combs it should be extracted before you try to straighten them.

The Southern States.

CONDUCTED BY

MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY,

Floyd, Texas.

How about the Punic bees. We don't hear much about them lately.

That drone excluding metal of Dr. Tinker's will be a good thing indeed.

I don't much believe that the Abbott—Clark smoker will not clog, but I would like to use one and see whether it does or not.

I see there are men who like the large type with which the *P. B. K.* is printed. Well, it is a good thing for this world that opinions differ.

How about getting up a bee journal in Texas. Friends, do you think we could make it? If I had a bee journal I would go into the supply business.

Alfalfa will do well all over the south. I tried it here in Texas some thirteen years ago and it grew two feet high the first season. It will do well in Missouri.

While I am writing this a heavy thunder storm with pretty heavy hail is passing over this part of Texas. I hope the hail will not do any damage to crops. The rain was needed bad.

I see a good deal of discussing Black bees vs Italians in *Am. B. J.* Well I didn't think there were so many smart men married to black bees. They must be better bees than I ever saw. I am compelled to use a good many black bees in

making up nuclei and for cell building, and this is the only good trait I ever found in them.

GRADING COMB HONEY. Well I am waiting anxiously to hear what they will hatch out on grading comb honey. I think it is more beneficial to commission men than to the producer anyway.

Am. B. J. of March 31, page 443, brings a cut of the Gould Reversible honey extractor. It is a fine machine. I saw one at Mr. Heddon's, at Dowagiac, Mich., last summer. It beats anything I ever saw in the way of an extractor.

Bro. bee-keepers, work for that fine breeding queen Mrs. J. Atchley offers. I bought four breeders from her this spring and I can say I never saw finer looking bees yet. They are very near all yellow, and fine workers to and don't you forget it.

Bro. Alley's way of having queen-cells built is the best yet, I have better success with it than any other. I don't like his way of preparing bees for building cells much. It's too fussy. I will tell you how I prepare my bees for cell building. About sun down I de-queen the colony and take away all the brood and fill the hive with full combs of honey except the center comb. The next morning early I put in the comb with the eggs prepared *ala* H. Alley and all is lovely. The honor of finding out this plan is due to Bro. C. B. Bankston, who works with me some days when I am badly crowded with work. Bro. Bankston is a genius. He has a

way of getting rid of undesirable drones, that I would like to tell my readers of. It is not a right new plan but it works to a certainty. He pinches them through the back and lets them die of broken heart.

Bro. J. W. Tefft, of Buffalo, N. Y., seems to think that drones have some influence on the quality of the young queens while in the embryo state. He says in an article in *Am. B. J.* of March 24th, as follows: "A queen raised in a colony or a nuclei where there are no drones at the time of the formation of the queen-cell, is a worthless queen, compared with a queen reared where there are drones at the time of the formation of the queen-cell. A queen reared where there are no drones is short lived. Her progeny lack of vigor as well as vitality to stand the winters. The long gathering qualities are poor and she also fails to keep her colony up to the standard in working bees. It is evident to me that bees that have no drones have not the necessary power to feed the queen embryo state."

I don't believe that drones have anything to do with the feeding of royal larva whatever, neither do I believe that the workers have more power to feed the royal larva while having drones. It is all in the season of the year. When bees rear drones naturally that is during the swarming time, they have all the natural facilities and all the conditions necessary to rear good queens. When queens are reared artificially, I suppose some breeders make mistakes and don't get bees

in the proper condition to rear good queens, I think that is where the secret lies. What do others think about this? Answer through *P. B. K.*

OTTO J. E. URBAN,

For JENNIE ATCHLEY.

Thorndale, Texas.

TEXAS STATE BEE-KEEPERS' CONVENTION.

The Texas State Bee-Keepers' Association met in their 14th annual convention at Greenville, Tex., on April 6 and 7, 1892, there being about 40 bee-keepers in attendance.

The convention was called to order by President W. R. Graham, and Rev. W. K. Marshall, of Marshall, Texas, led in prayer. President Graham stated the object of the meeting, and outlined the work and business to be done. He also cordially welcomed the delegates to the hospitalities of the city, and to his own home north of the city.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved. the roll of membership was called; and the death of Mr. J. J. Bankston was announced. A committee was appointed to draft resolutions of respect to the deceased brother, as follows: A. A. Jones, Dr. W. E. Smith and J. D. Moody.

The question box was substituted for a program.

Dr. Marshall was invited to state his experience in bee-keeping and gave an interesting talk.

Dr. Marshall was the oldest bee-keeper present and perhaps the oldest in the state. He began bee-keeping when quite young, back in the days of superstition, when it was thought that if a man sold bees

he sold his luck. He was taught that it was not wrong to steal bees if he left remuneration for them on the stand from which the bees were taken.

From the bee-keeper who taught him this he took a colony of bees, leaving a five-dollar gold-piece on the stand from which he took the bees. Being asked afterward if he had obtained any bees, he told his story to the owner of those he had stolen. Being asked if any one saw him, he said a woman at the house saw him. The owner said: "I'll bet that woman got the money. You will make a bee-keeper."

Dr. Marshall, in his remarks, said that he was perhaps the first man to receive an Italian queen west of the Mississippi. He purchased this queen in 1863, of Rev. L. L. Langstorth, and paid \$25 for her; and that Judge W. H. Andrews rode from McKinney, Collin county, on horseback to Rusk, Cherokee county, a distance of nearly 150 miles, to see this queen. Dr. Marshall made many historical statements.

The number of colonies and condition of the same were called for. There were 800 colonies represented; they had wintered well and were in good condition, and the prospect for a good yield was favorable. Fifty pounds of honey per colony was the average for last year. It was demonstrated from all reports that the industry was on the increase.

The movable-comb hive was discussed at length, and comb-foundation formed an interesting topic.

The manner of putting up and selling honey was discussed freely, and the management of bees was an important feature of the discussions.

Reports of committees was called for, and the Committee on Resolutions reported the following, which were accepted, and unanimously adopted.

WHEREAS, our beloved brother, J. J. Bankston, of Golden, Texas, departed this life on April 12, 1891.

Resolved, That we deeply deplore the loss of our brother, thus cut down in the midst of his usefulness, and in the prime of life; that in his death we feel that we have lost a worthy advocate of our favorite vocation.

Resolved, That we tender our sincere sympathy to the bereaved family, and that these resolutions be spread on the minutes, and a copy of the same be furnished to the bereaved family.

The question-box was then opened.

Which pays best, full sheets of foundation or starters, both in brood-frames and in sections? Reasonably good starters were decided best.

With how many colonies should a beginner start? It was decided that three are sufficient.

Which is the best way, and when the best time, to transfer bees from box hives to frame ones? Early spring was decided as the best time, and several ways were presented for transferring bees.

What is the best way to rear queens? Mrs. Jennie Atchley, a

thorough queen-breeder, was present, and gave a very interesting description of this branch of bee-culture. The plan explained is the "G. M. Doolittle plan." Much valuable information was gathered from her speech.

On motion of Dr. Marshall, the present officers of the Association were re-elected for the ensuing year.

Greenville was again selected as the place for the next meeting, and the first Wednesday and Thursday in April, 1893, as the time.

The delegates then expressed themselves as to the enjoyment of the occasion, and Dr. Marshall made a farewell talk, and closing prayer, after which the convention adjourned. A. H. JONES, Sec.

THE AMATEUR BEE-KEEPER.

By J. W. Rouse is a neat little book of 60 pages, designed expressly for the amateur and beginner in bee-keeping. It covers the whole ground, in language easily understood, giving full instructions on all points, and avoiding technicalities and scientific researches. The price of the book is only 25 cents postpaid. It is profusely illustrated. For sale at this office.

New subscribers and old ones renewing, can have a warranted Golden Italian Queen, with a year's subscription to the P. B. K. for \$1.15. Have your order booked at once.

We shall send out something over a thousand extra copies of the August number. Advertisers note this fact.

Communications.

HONEY RESOURCES OF COLORADO.

WM. L. BANKENSTON.

The honey resources of Colorado are varied, and to enumerate and treat of each and every one, would make too lengthy an article for any one paper devoted to bee literature to publish.

I shall therefore mention but a few of the honey producing plants, and shall treat (to any extent) of but two, viz: Alfalfa and cleoma or rocky mountain bee plant, so called.

The two above mentioned, with sweet clover and wild pea are the principal honey producing plants in this part of Colorado. Cleoma, sweet clover and wild pea are native to this soil; sweet clover and wild pea frequent bottom lands, principally in meadows of wild or native grass along irrigating ditches and close to water courses, and quite frequently take possession of cultivated fields, in fact sweet clover and wild pea are an abomination to ranch-men, as they spread so rapidly as to soon ruin bottom lands that are in native or wild grass; in fact there is within a stone's throw of me at this writing a meadow in which sweet clover and wild pea have almost gained possession of the land to the exclusion of the grass. On cultivated ground they can be kept under control, as tramping on and plowing them under soon kills them out.

But to alfalfa and cleoma, or Rocky Mountain bee plant, must be awarded the blue ribbon as honey producing plants.

Cleoma will grow anywhere, in waste places where weeds will grow, (in fact it is a weed.) I have places in my mind now not far from here where it has taken possession of several acres of land in one body, to the exclusion of all other vegetation, and without irrigation. Cleoma throws out one main stalk usually about 4 feet high, though I have seen it as high as 6 feet, and from one-half to one and one-half inches in diameter at the butt. About every five or six inches there is a point which throws out a branch alternately and each branch throws out alternate branches, each one of which produces a bunch of blossoms which the bees work upon with perfect avidity. Cleoma does not blossom until late in July or early in August and blossoms thereafter until frost kills it, which does not occur, (usually) until the latter part of November, which permits the bees to work upon it for about four months.

Alfalfa is about the only honey producing plant we have in this locality to speak of, which is cultivated and it is not a native of this soil. I believe the seed was first brought to this state from California.

The ground is usually plowed from four to eight inches deep; new ground does not require to be plowed quite so deep, as ground which has been under cultivation

for a number of years. Such ground should be manured to some extent and plowed under before sowing the seed. 15 to 25 pounds of seed per acre (20 pounds is the usual amount sown here) sown broadcast, harrowed in and then rolled if it is desired to have the ground as smooth as possible. There is usually enough oats sown with the alfalfa seed to shade the young alfalfa plants from the sun, the oats being cut before maturity and cured and fed the same as hay or fodder.

After the oats are cut the young alfalfa shoots rapidly up (provided there is plenty of water to irrigate with), so that before frost comes there is produced a pretty good yield of hay the first season. The second season is when the farmer begins to realize paying profits from the planting of the preceeding season. With plenty of rain, or irrigating water, there will be three crops taken from the same ground each year, of about three tons per cutting per acre. The first and second crop produces blossoms, but the frost comes too soon for the third or last cutting to make more than hay.

The stalk is more like a vine and has joints very much like the Rocky Mountain bee plant, and throws out branches alternately with a cluster of blossoms at the end of each branch, usually of about ten to fifteen blossoms each. The first set of blossoms seems to produce the most nectar, just why, I am unable to say. But suppose it is owing to climate and atmos-

pheric conditions. Last season my bees fairly went wild over the first bloom of alfalfa. But owing to the scarcity of hay, and too much rain, (the alfalfa was cut for hay soon after the first crop bloomed) the yield of honey was short, as there was no nectar in the second set of blossoms owing to the atmospheric conditions again. But, notwithstanding some of my colonies stored 100 and 114 pounds of comb honey each. The fault that I find to alfalfa is that it does not bloom usually until July and then is apt to be cut for hay immediately after, so that July and August are really the honey season in this locality.—*Logan, Colorado.*

BEES AT FAIRS.

GEO. F. ROBBINS.

The P. B. K. you kindly sent me came to hand a few days ago. The editorial on rules for judging bees at fairs was read and duly noted. You have doubtless noticed my late reply to criticisms in the A. B. J., in which I stated in effect that it was harder for me to fix upon rules or standards for bees than for anything else. The entire article was thrown out as a feeler. I want the views of others. I am glad that you and others are expressing yourselves so freely. But I must confess I so far find it no easier to settle upon a standard. You want two classes or strains of Italians recognized. Suppose that should be done, what would it probably lead to? Breeders of Albino's would insist that they should be recognized as well as five-banded bees,

and with good reason, for they were an acknowledged strain of Italian some years before five-banded bees were heard of. Golden Carniolans, would next put in a claim, and then ——? It reminds me of what old Peter Cartwright once said. "I have," said he, "seven children living, thirty grand-children, rising fifty great-grand children, and the Lord only knows what is coming next." Judging by past history we have no idea how many little bigbugs may pop up in the next decade.

However it might possibly be all right to recognize every strain, even though they should become as numerous as breeds of fowls, provided; first, that fairs should be willing to appropriate so much in premiums.

Second, that all these strains should be of regular, clearly defined types.

Third, that no injustice should be done to any by failing to recognize them as distinct and meritorious breeds.

But I fear that in the end all this would involve us in a worse embroilment than to acknowledge bees one breed of Italians, and without any standard whatever.

I shall contribute something further on this subject to the A. B. J., ere very long.—*Mechanicsburg, Ill.*

SEPARATING CELLS, ETC.

BYRON HAMS.

Are your bees making any honey yet? A question asked me until I am sick of it.

Some people think bees just manufacture honey right along in the

hive, the year round, hot or cold, wet or dry. I have been feeding almost daily for two weeks or more; bees only get out about one or two days in the week, and they seem to put in the time they are out, trying to find a neighbor colony that will divide stores with them. The prospects are not the brightest. I have been watching the clover with a growing fear that it will not make me any better off financially this year.

I do not wish to rob any good sister of any discovery or invention, but the idea of transferring larva to the queen cells, as Mrs. Atchley describes is old, straw and all. I have had a great deal of trouble and have lost a great many valuable queens by having what I call double cells—cells built so close together, that I could not separate them without destroying one or both of them. I tried a new plan last week and it worked like a charm. Here it is, and it will be new to some of your readers at least. Take the cells to a warm room, where you have a fire in the stove; now have a sharp, fine-pointed knife with which to separate the cells, which are to be cut as near the center as possible—of course you will have a hole in one or both. Now take a case knife and a small strip of thin foundation, heat the blade of the knife just hot enough to melt the wax a little, next place the wax or foundation on a smooth board and press it out thin as you can. Now lay a piece of the thin wax over the hole in your cell, and with the hot knife

blade run around the outer edges of the patch and melt it down just enough to cement it to the cell all around the hole, and the job is complete and the queen will be as good as any. Handle the cell as little and as careful as possible.

I have been doing an unnecessary amount of work in making nuclei, by carrying them to the cellar, etc., *a la* Doolittle. I now divide the colony into as many nuclei as I want, with a wire cloth previously tacked over the entrance. Make them late in the evening, and take the wire cloth away in twenty-four hours, or after the bees have gone to "roost."

I had exactly the same experience as mentioned by Mr. T. on page 67, only my queen is still alive and doing well. Is it not possible that those queens mated early this spring? I think not.—*Worcester, Missouri.*

[The plan you give of sealing up queen cells is illustrated in "Thirty Years Among the Bees," by Henry Alley. We think the better plan is to use a method that you do not have to cut into a cell to separate them.—Ed.]

AN EXPERIMENT.

MRS. A. L. HOLLENBECK.

The plumb, apple and cherry blossoms, came; so did the rain, north wind, and some snow, by way of variation. At last, on May 22, the sun managed to get the better of the clouds, and we have had a week of pleasant weather, which is very much appreciated by the bees and their owners, as well.

One day, after several cold, cloudy days the sun came out about noon, warm and pleasant, and the bees made a stampede for the apple trees, which were full of blossoms. After an hour or so the clouds came up again and the sun was forced to retire and leave bees, blossoms and mortals to the mercy of the wind again. We mortals replenished the fire and wondered what would be the fate of the blossoms and bees. When I went out to close the entrance for night, which I always do when the weather is cold, leaving only a little place open, I found the grass around the hives and the entrance boards covered with bees, laden with pollen, that had reached their homes, only to drop chilled and too weak to crawl in the hives. I got a teacup and began picking them up, and gathered nearly a teacup full around three hives that stand close together. As it was too dark to get any more I raised the cover and dumped the lot into the hive I thought needed them most. When I picked them up they were apparently dead, or nearly so, but if you imagine they were dead you are mistaken. Just pick up a chilled bee loaded with pollen and place it close to the entrance where the bees are going in and out. Soon they will gather around it and appear to be trying to assist it. If it is too weak to crawl it is amusing to see them work. One will push, another will pull and finally the unfortunate member of the family will be assisted inside.

My teacup full of bees all crawled

down into the hive before morning (I emptied them out on top of the cloth that covers the frames, turning it back a little to let them go down) and I kept watch to see if they were killed and carried out, but they were not. Has any one else tried a like experiment?

Mrs. Leone tells us about her flowers. I wonder if there is a bee-keeper who does not love flowers? So, if the editor does not object, tell us about your favorites sisters, brothers too.—*Millard, Nebraska.*

WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

1. Exhibits of honey will be classified as follows:

Class 1. Clover and basswood.

Class 2. White sage.

Class 3. Buckwheat.

Class 4. All light honey, other than enumerated in classes 1 and 2.

Class 5. All dark honey, other than enumerated in class 3.

2. Exhibits of honey produced during 1892, or earlier, must be in place on or before April 30, 1893.

3. Exhibits of honey in classes 1, 2, and 4, produced during 1893, will be received between July 15 and Aug. 15; and in classes 3 and 5 between Aug. 15 and Sept. 1, 1893.

4. The following information should accompany each exhibit.

a. Kind of honey.

b. Name of exhibitor.

c. Place where produced.

d. Character of soil in locality where produced.

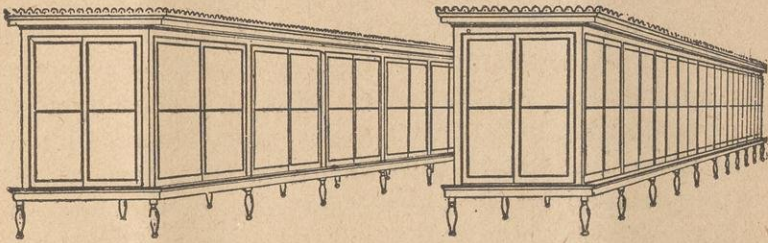
e. Variety of bee.

f. Name of plant from which honey was produced.

g. Yield per colony.

h. Average price of product at nearest home market.

5. In order to secure a uniform, handsome, and economical installation of honey and beeswax, the Exposition will erect suitable glass cases, of a uniform character, in which such exhibits will be made; the cost of these cases to be borne by the different State Commissions, Bee-Keepers' Associations, or by individual exhibitors, in proportion to the number of lineal feet occupied. These cases will become the property of such exhibitors at the close of the exposition. Below is a very good illustration of the proposed cases.



The dimensions are as follows: Height of base 18 inches, width of case 5 feet, height of case above base (inside measure) 6 feet, total height 8 feet. The case has sliding doors on both sides.

6. Individual exhibits of comb honey will be limited to 100 pounds, and may be made in any manner the exhibitor may desire, subject to the approval of the Chief of the Department.

7. Individual exhibits of extracted honey must be made in glass, and must not exceed 50 pounds.

8. Individual exhibits of beeswax must not exceed 50 pounds, and should be prepared in such a manner as will add to the attractiveness of the exhibit.

9. Exhibits of primitive and modern appliances used in bee culture, both in this country and

abroad, will be received, subject to the approval of the Chief of the Department.

10. Special arrangements will be made by the Chief of the Department for a limited exhibit of bees.

11. Collections of honey producing plants, suitably mounted and labelled, will be accepted if satisfactory to the Chief of the Department.

12. The right is reserved to add to, amend, or interpret the above rules.

Signed, W. I. BUCHANAN,
Chief of Dept. of Ag.

Approved, GEO. R. DAVIS,
Director General.

PROF. WILEY---FOOD ADULTERANTS.

S. E. MILLER,

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER:—Bulletin No. 13 from the Department of Apiculture entitled, Food and Food Adulterants, part 6, lies before me, and purports to show that a large portion of the honey found in large cities in the U. S., is adulterated. How reliable this may be, I presume no one is prepared to say, since, as we know Prof. H. W. Wiley, the chief chemist under whose supervision the analysis was conducted, is not reliable authority, as a number of samples of honey known to be pure,

submitted to him for analysis by C. F. Muth, of Cincinnati, Ohio, were pronounced adulterated, with one or two exceptions.

While I believe that this bulletin will prove damaging to producers of honey, let us hope that it may prove a benefit at a later day, in the way of demanding a strict law for the prevention of food adulteration.

Can we not get a law in the state of Missouri that will put adulterators of foods where they belong? Is there not some one among us who could prepare a bill to prevent the adulteration of honey, if nothing more? If it is a fact that a large portion of the honey found on the market is adulterated we should certainly do something to drive the stuff out of the market, and thus cause a better demand for the pure article. Who will start the ball a rolling?

We think Prof. Wiley's statement will have very little weight with the people generally after the bee journals get through ventilating him. Where his statements are believed, it will have a tendency to send the buyers direct to the producers, and may be a benefit to us in disguise. We will bring the matter before our convention this fall.—[Ed.]

The star seems to be a favorite emblem of Texan Apiarists. We are proprietors of the original and we used to think, the only Star Apiary, but lately we see that two Lone Star Apiaries have sprung up in Texas. Texas must have good soil for raising them. We have no

patent right, copy right, or even a monopoly on the name, but we do not like to see it used so freely. However, as ours is the Star Apiary and both of theirs are Lone Star Apiaries, we will let the fellows down there fight it out.—*Bluffton, Missouri.*

PRODUCING COMB HONEY.

A. D. ELLINGWOOD.

In order to secure the best results from your bees the coming season, you should begin to look after them at once. Weak swarms should be built up by feeding them sugar syrup; don't have the syrup too thick and don't feed them until just at night, or they may take to robbing. Feeding at this time causes them to rear brood faster, and gets them into a better condition for work when the honey season opens. Bees should be in movable frame hives with covers, and for the following method of arranging for comb honey, an extra upper body will be necessary.

Until about the first of June keep your bees confined to the lower part of the hive that they may get well built up, then about the time white clover begins to appear, put on your section case filled with sections. If they do not go to work in them readily, remove a section from the center of the case and put in a section partly filled with honey. If you do not have the honey, pour a little sugar syrup on top of the sections letting it drip down onto the bees. This will call them up and they will generally go to work at once. Af-

ter they get the case of sections partly filled with honey, say about half capped over, lift the case, sections, honey, bees and all up, and put a new case filled with sections underneath. That is, place your new case on top of the brood frames and set the case partly filled on it. The bees in the brood chamber and those above, upon finding so much space between themselves will rush pell mell into the new case and will work with a will to fill it up, leaving only bees enough in the top case to finish it up, which they will generally do in five or six days of good weather.

Now, if your colony is a very strong one, you can in a few days lift the two cases and put on a third one. Then you will have the bees working in the three cases at once. After the top case is nicely capped, you can take your smoker and drive out what bees remain in it, and then take it off and carry it into the house. I have at times had as many as four cases on a hive at the same time, and have taken one hundred and fifty pounds of nice comb honey, in a single season, from one hive.

By giving them so much room they will seldom swarm, and a large crop of honey can be secured. One year I sold over \$100 worth of honey from five swarms managed in this way, and that is not a large amount either.

In selling honey much depends on the way it is put up. Nice, clean one pound sections filled with well capped clover honey will bring a good price anywhere, while dirty,

dark honey will scarcely sell at any price. Nothing on the farm will pay better bees, if they are given the same careful attention that your cows and other stock receive. —*Groveton, N. H.*

TEXAS HONEY PRODUCTION.

OTTO J. E. URBAN.

The production of honey is a wide field to dwell upon. How can I produce a large crop of a good product that will sell readily at a good price, is a question often asked by people who do not make bee-keeping a specialty, but simply keep a few hives of bees that they perhaps bought at an auction, or taken on a debt, or come by them some other way at a low price.

Some big lights of the bee-keeping fraternity up north, advocate contracting the brood nest at the beginning of the honey harvest. I am not in favor of it. Dr. C. C. Miller, who is known as one of our large honey producers, says: "I do not like contraction, but I rather like expansion." Doctor, I am with you. Another bee-keeper of Colorado, whose name I forgot, says when giving his experience how he produced a large crop of honey: "In early spring I began to stimulate my bees in order to make them breed up faster, and kept it up until my ten frame hives were running over with bees." This is the condition our bees ought to be in when the main honey flow sets in. It matters not whether the hive is an eight or ten frame hive, a Heddon or a Dovetailed, a Langstroth or a Quinby, a Watertown or a

Simplicity, a Nonpareil or a Bay State, patented or unpatented. Neither does it make any difference whether our frames are swinging or fixed. All this is with the apiarist. Whatever kind of hive one is used to, works best with him. E. R. Root says: "There is nothing like getting used to a thing. This is true. Years ago, when I first started in bee-keeping, I sent off for a lot of Langstroth brood frames and had fourteen hives made at home. They were ten frame hives and two stories high. When I had these hives made, I had never seen a modern frame hive before and had them put up the best I knew from reading a description of the L hive in an agricultural paper. I knew nothing about a bee journal, or text book, and my knowledge of the make-up of a bee hive was indeed meager. Still, the fourteen hives that I had made that spring, I am using yet in one of my yards and I get just as much honey out of them as I do from any other. It seems to me sometimes, I get more out of them than out of the other hives. I have taken as much as ninety pounds of well sealed comb honey in one pound sections, off one of those hives. I think that is as much as anybody ought to expect of any colony of bees, when there is no extra work and care bestowed upon them. At that time I never opened a hive only when I put on the surplus apartment and to see how they were getting along filling it, and to take it off. I had black bees then and you know a beginner don't like to be stung, but

those little black scoundrels did love to sting.

The main thing in getting a large crop of honey is a good locality and prolific queens from a good working strain of bees. Many writers on apiculture, advocate spreading the brood in spring to make the queen lay faster and thus secure more workers for the harvest. This is very good, but a man can over do it very easily and then it does harm. If the queen is what she ought to be, she should be left to judge how many eggs to lay daily for the welfare of the colony. If she is a prolific queen, such as most of our Italian queens are in the first two years of their lives, and there is enough honey in the hive, or coming in from the fields, she will have a ten frame hive chuck full of bees and brood by the time the main honey-flow sets in, without any spreading of the brood.

It is now time to put on the surplus arrangements. If you run for comb honey, you should have all your supers ready to go on the hive without anything more to do on them. All such work as putting sections together, fastening foundation in them and filling the supers should be done in winter, or early spring, during leisure days, so when the honey flow comes, you just have to get them out and put them on the hives; if your colonies are in the condition as above described, the bees will enter the supers at once, without any further trouble. Here in Texas there is no necessity for contracting the brood chamber

to five or six frames. Contraction is not only unnecessary, but in our climate, it is disastrous to bees. I know from my own experience, (no theoretical hypothesis about this), that if a good queen is left alone in a good sized brood chamber, and left to breed to suit herself, she will take her colony, big and strong through the whole season and her bees will gather more surplus honey than other colonies, where contraction is practiced, and will be strong next spring to enter the next season. Further, you save the expense of queen excluders. If you contract and don't use a queen excluding honey board, the queen is liable to go in the upper story and make a brood nest in the sections, because she is crowded for room in the lower story. If a queen has eight or ten good, straight combs in the brood chamber, she is pretty well employed and don't care to go upstairs, especially when the upper story is filled with one pound sections. If contraction is practiced and we have no fall honey-flow, the bees will be in very bad shape all the fall and winter, unless fed up during the fall.

In running for comb honey the Bee Escape is a great help. I tried the Porter Spring Escape last season and found it to do good work. Whenever your sections are well filled, slip the escape board under the super at night and next morning you can go along your hives with a wheelbarrow and load the supers on it and wheel them to the honey house. There will be but very few bees left in the sec-

tions. Under extracting supers the escape don't work so good. The bees seem better contented in an extracting super, even if cut off from the queen.

As to when to take honey off the hives is a question of greater importance. Comb honey I take off as soon as it is all well sealed over. It should be taken in a hot, dry, bee-tight room and left there piled up for further evaporation. If left on the hive until the close of the harvest it will be travel-stained and unfit for a fancy market. If you intend to produce extracted honey for the average consumer at average prices, you should extract your surplus as soon as the combs are partly sealed over. If a fancy article of extracted honey is desired, allow the honey to ripen on the hive while in care of the bees. You should practice the tiering up system and take it off the hive late in the season, not until you are satisfied that your honey has that rich, oily consistency so highly appreciated by the fancy consumer. If you have a home market and sell direct to your customer it will pay you to do this extra work and have more extracting surplus on hand than otherwise. You can easily get your own for a fancy article if your customers know what you produce.—*Thorndale, Texas.*

The cover for the June Bee-Keeper is as far as we got with that number, that accounts for the June cover on the July issue.

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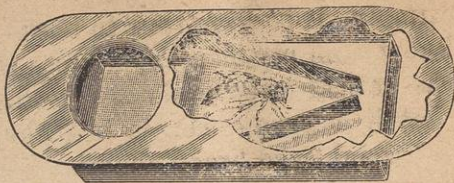
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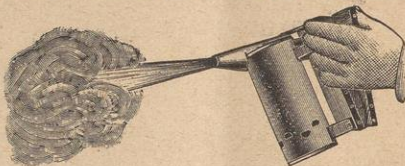
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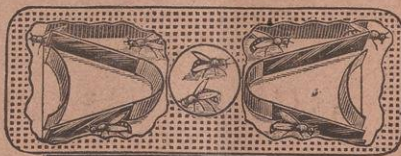
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