

extension 1930

University of Minnesota ①

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Agricultural Extension Division

Prepared by ②

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SEP 21 1976

January 1930 ④

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In order to meet a demand on the part of Minnesota Beekeepers for up-to-date information on what is happening in beekeeping in Minnesota and in other parts of the country as well, the Extension Division is inaugurating this series of News Letters which will be sent out each month to every beekeeper in the state whose name appears on its mailing list. This list is by no means complete and if you know of any beekeepers who do not receive a copy of this first number we would appreciate it if you would send names and addresses to M. C. Tanquary, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Many new developments are taking place in the beekeeping industry today. Research and the development of better equipment and better methods are aiding producers; the work of cooperatives is helping to stabilize marketing, and the advertising of the merits of honey as a food is stimulating consumption. Some highlights on these and similar topics will be brought out from time to time in these news letters. We will also give reports of various beekeepers' meetings and pass on to you any interesting bits of beekeeping news that come our way.

The annual meeting of the Minnesota State Beekeepers Association which was held December 3rd and 4th at University Farm, St. Paul, was an unusually interesting one. The attendance was good and a very fine spirit prevailed. Out of state speakers were Mr. A. W. B. Kjosness, Manager, Mountain States Honey Producers' Association, Boise, Idaho, and Mr. H. H. Root of the A. I. Root Company, Medina, Ohio. A beekeepers' Banquet was held at the University Farm Cafeteria on the evening of December 3rd. Mr. O. A. Lende, Minneapolis, acted as toastmaster and a number of interesting short talks were given. Some very fine, special music was given, both at the banquet and during the other sessions.

The annual meeting of the American Honey Producers' League will be held in the Hotel Schroeder, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, February 4th to 6th, and in connection with this on February 3rd the annual meeting of the American Honey Institute. The Apiary Inspectors of American will hold their annual meeting at the same time. A very strong program has been prepared for these meetings, which will include such people as Dr. Barnard and Miss Fischer, from the American Honey Institute, Mr. Kjosness from the Mountain States Honey Producers' Association, Mr. Hambleton of the Bee Culture Laboratory, Washington, D. C. and many others.

A honey exhibit will be held in connection with these meetings which will be in charge of Mr. James Gwin, Department of Agriculture and Markets, State Capitol, Madison, Wisconsin. Anyone wishing to enter exhibits should write Mr. Gwin at once.

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Minnesota beekeepers should be well represented at this meeting. Whether you are a member of the League or not you could not fail to profit by hearing the discussions and meeting beekeepers from all parts of the U. S. The railroads are offering reduced rates of a fare and a half for round trip on the certificate plan, so the expense of the entire trip will not be great from any part of Minnesota.

Mr. Frank C. Pellett, Associate Editor of the American Bee Journal spent Monday, January 13, with us at University Farm. He spoke before some of the beekeeping classes and examined the results of some of our research work. He was on his way to Fargo, North Dakota to speak at the annual meeting of the North Dakota Beekeepers' Association.

WINTERING OF BEES

At this season of the year when the ground is covered with snow and the thermometer registers below the zero mark at times, the careful and conscientious beekeeper can rest easy if he has taken the precaution to see that his bees were properly prepared. The essentials of good wintering are comparatively few and are well known. Plenty of young bees headed by a young queen, plenty of good stores accessible to the cluster, good insulation and enough ventilation, sums up most of these requirements. Much of the 15% or 20% winter loss estimated for Minnesota comes not so much because the beekeepers do not know what to do, as because they frequently do not appreciate the seriousness of not doing what they know should be done. Both cellar wintering and outside packing are practiced with success in Minnesota.

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