

meant *noble queen*, it might be a queen of any race.

#### THURSDAY EVENING.

The Thursday evening session was opened by a paper "Honey Resources of the Future" by S. P. Miller, Bluffton, Mo. Mr. Miller thought it important to bear in mind honey producing plant. He spoke of the value of alsike clover in particular. All who spoke upon the paper in the discussion which followed gave high praise to alsike clover as a honey plant.

The secretary Frank Benton, Washington, D. C., followed upon the subject "What Shall we Plant for honey." Mr. Benton in opening stated very correctly that there was no plant which would pay for honey alone, but he suggested the cultivation of a great many things which would not be likely to benefit the bee-keeper. The editor of C. B. J. would prefer no flow at all to a very light and prolonged flow. He suggested amongst many others, that *pis. European chestnut, filbert, chicory, mustard mellons, cucumbers, squashes, gourds, mignonette, hawthorn, black hellebore, red bud, etc. etc.* The members present being invited to an entertainment by the mayor of St. Joseph, left in a body to hear and see. A talking and performing seal was a great treat to the guests of the mayor.

#### FRIDAY MORNING.

The following paper was read:

#### BEE-KEEPING IN AUSTRALIA.

The honeybee was first introduced into Tasmania, the late Dr. Wilson, according to the Australian Bee Bulletin, is credited with being the first person to successfully import a colony of black bees into that colony and have them fully established. Swarms from these bees were sold at £5 (\$24.00) each, a number finding their way to various parts of the Australian continent. Some further importations were, of which we have no definite record. The black bee is now to be found wild all over Australia. During seasons of plenty swarms are very numerous, and if an excursion be made through the bush (forest) several may be often seen hanging on the limbs of trees, a fence, or other conspicuous place. Swarms often fly across towns, and it is not an unusual occurrence for them to settle somewhere in a public thoroughfare. The most noteworthy instance that I have seen was last season, when a passing swarm decided that the back seat of a buggy standing in the principal street of W. Maitland, N. S. W., was the most suitable place to settle on, from which place they were successfully, hived in a box by a passer by without removing the horse from

the vehicle. Now and then a swarm will build comb and commence brood rearing on the place where it settles, as the branch of a tree, and there thrive for a while.

In some seasons large quantities of honey are obtained by felling trees containing a nest, the hollow part being from six to fifteen inches in diameter, the combs often extending a distance of six feet along the hollow. It is not unusual for 100 pounds or more of strained honey to be obtained from tree nests.

The black bees in this country have proved to be excessive swarmers during seasons when they could get just sufficient nectar to keep up brood rearing, but when honey was being rapidly stored they seemed to forget about increase and set to work to store. Swarming may commence in August and continue to early in the following March. Swarms can be purchased for 2s 6d (60 cents) each.

Bees are mostly kept in any convenient box that can be found. In some places the joints are so open, through warping and splitting, that the bees and combs can be seen from quite a distance. Sometimes the hives are sheltered with sheets of bark, rough boards, etc.; at other times a shed. After a swarm is placed in a hive no further care is taken of it until the autumn, generally the end of February, when they are driven to another box and allowed to do the best they can for winter. In many localities in a favorable season these driven bees will build complete combs, rear brood and store sufficient honey before winter, which they will come through in very strong condition.

Since the introduction of the frame hive and Italian bee many have adopted the more modern methods of keeping, which is carried on similarly to the American bee keepers. In fact, American bee literature is what is mostly in circulation, and the methods there described seem to suit this country very well when modified to suit our honey flows. Our climate is such that very little attention is given to wintering bees beyond seeing they have about 10 pounds of stores, a good queen, and a water tight cover. In the warmer parts the amount of stores for winter gives no concern as there is generally sufficient food to be obtained from something, as grasses, weeds, underscrub, etc., if there should not be a winter honey flow. To give an idea of what a winter flow is sometimes like, I will cite the following: During the season of 1892 Mr. M. Scoble, of W. Maitland, N. S. W., started the spring with seventeen hives of black and hybrid bees, anticipating favorable weather for the following winter, and noticing the spotted gum trees were