use. These are built of the usual galvanized corrugated iron, lined with ceiling boards, having a space of 4½ in. between which with the upright and cross pieces form a most convenient dwelling of about 4 ft. square, a missing screw or badly jointed iron giving an entrance. Colonies under these conditions build beautiful comb, straight and long and very wide, suited for transferring into frames.

Further up country they live in rocky places and also in holes in the ground that have been excavated by ant bears, where, however, they suffer from grass fires that sweep the country in the dry season. The large number of colonies give one the idea, at first, that they would form a valuable neucleus from which to start an apiary on a large scale and although this is the case to some extent there is so much uncertainty as to their behavior that their value is greatly minimised. Apart from the initial difficulty of getting out the colony, which all bee-keepers will allow is the most troublesome and disagreeable task in the pursuit, it is very hard to persuade them to remain in the hive. Sometimes they swarm out next day but more often a few days after hiving, when they have cleared up the brood and the apiarist flatters himself that they had settled down, and then nothing will induce them to remain.

They vary in marking, some being black and others all grades up to three yellow bands. They differ too in size, the queen especially, some of which are very small and go through the ordinary excluder zinc.

In spite of difficulties a good many have been domesticated in bar-frame hives and as the climate is favorable for increase the number will be extended in time, as when a generation has been raised in the hive they seem to lose the propensity for swarming out.

The hives in use are generally home-made copies of the bar-frame hive, single walled and the frames 14 in. by 8½ in., but some use the Langstroth frame; and I do not suppose there are more than a hundred scattered about the colony.

As regards the honey flow there is a want of any definite source at some settled period of the year. Flowers bloom all the year round, more or less, and the time of plenty is regulated by the rain fall which is so uncertain that there may be a full month difference between the time of flowering of some particular plant in consecutive years, so that we may work up a hive for nothing or be caught napping which is far from satisfactory.

The large variety of flowers also spoil the honey, as some kinds have a very disagreeable taste, one especially, being like licorice, and another very bitter. There is, however, one plant that is an exception—it is known as the buckweed as it is a favorite food for buck and cattle, but it only flowers in quantity once in seven years and then gives a very large honey flow.

There is a great deal yet to be done before a fair test can be made of bee-keeping as a source of income as very little has been done to ascertain sources of honey flow in different parts and at various altitudes, and what has been done in the establishment of apiaries is now wiped out by the war.

A. C. SEWELL.

Durban,
March 15th, 1901.

Rubbing a hot laundry iron over top cloths diffusing the propolis is a preventative to bees gnawing them.