

it would at least have one redeeming feature then.

PREMINISCENCES OF CALIFORNIAN BEE KEEPING IN THE EARLY DAYS

Report of the Los Angeles Convention, particularly talks by the veterans on the above theme, form very interesting reading.

Mr. Harbison told how in the face of many difficulties, and discouragements from friends, he prepared 116 colonies in Pennsylvania, took them away south across the Isthmus of Panama and thence by steamboat to California. On arrival at destination six colonies were dead and the rest greatly depleted in population. However they soon built up and Mr. H. found ready sale for all he wished to dispose of at \$100.00 per colony. The total cost of transportation from Pennsylvania to California, was about \$1800.00. His first crop of honey sold readily at \$1.00 per pound, so the venture turned out well notwithstanding all the "advice" given him by his friends.

Only another example of what "grit" and determination will do by way of overcoming obstacles.

WAX PRESSES—THAT BIG DAYS WORK

Since scribbling that comment for February C.B.J. re Mr. France's big day's work of rendering 2,000 combs into wax, have received further light on the subject. In the report of Chicago, North Western Convention published in A. B. J. Mr. France explains how he did it. Two large kettles were used to melt up the combs and then the mass was put through the press. No doubt a great volume of work could be accomplished in that way; but is it not giving the German wax press a little too much credit? Would not the Hatch-Gammel press do about as much work under similar conditions?

FOUL BROOD TREATMENT, WHERE ARE WE AT?

With Messrs McEvoy, France and other experienced apiarists telling us that foul brood is always communicated by infected honey; and others claiming that the disease originates otherwise, how is the novice to govern himself?

In a lengthy article in February American Beekeeper, Mr. Weber (one of the first men to recommend the formalin treatment) makes some rather startling assertions.

He seems inclined to accept the theory lately advanced by Dr. Lambotte, in effect that *Bacillus alvei* is identical with *Bacillus mesentericus vulgaris* which if found abundantly on potatoes, milk, stale bread etc. Have not certain scientists already disputed Dr. Lambotte's assertion?

In speaking of an experiment re infecting a colony with foul brood, Mr. Weber says, "In spite of all this larvae developed into bees in due time; only when we introduced the pure foul brood to the food in the cells the larvae died, but the colony did not become affected with foul brood on that account, for the dead larvae were removed by the bees, the colony had been previously a strong one. Some bee-keepers claim that they gave frames affected with foul brood to strong healthy colonies in order to re-clean them without any sign of the disease being perceptible later on."

In a nut shell the gist of Mr. Weber's argument is that the disease spores are everywhere and the safety of a colony is just in proportion to its strength and sanitary surroundings such as ventilation, good or bad wintering, etc, etc.

Even if foul brood should get a start in a powerful colony the bees