

all over the country, yields honey during the winter. The acacia is one of the first trees to blossom in the spring, the tamarisk, beefwood, and mimosa yield good honey, as do also the fruit trees, especially in districts where there are large orchards. In Natal are the mango, loquats, orange blossom, and in some parts the veldt flowers alone yield an abundant harvest. Lucerne is largely grown, but it has not quite come up to the expectations of the South African beekeepers, as the bees will not work on it if there are any other sources of nectar; the flowers explode and hit the bees when they alight, and this disconcerts them. Lucerne that is irrigated with water pumped direct from wells, and which is not allowed to stand some time in the sun, being run straight on to the land, does not secrete nectar. In the Cape Province this plan is not followed but irrigation from reservoirs is carried on, and the farmers reap some excellent crops of honey. The tree lucerne yields a honey of good flavor, and is readily visited by the bees. Some plants and trees only secrete nectar at certain times of the day during the very hot weather, generally in the early mornings and evening; in fact during very warm weather the bees frequently leave the hives and work by moonlight some time before day-break.

It is impossible to give the slightest idea of the differences of climate in such a vast country. In some parts there is not a drop of rain for from eleven to fifteen months at a time; then a deluge comes. I have seen four inches of rain fall in one hour. It was quite usual to have 16 degrees of frost at night in June on the farm I was on in the Free State, and last winter we had from 21 degrees to 26 degrees of frost, but that is very unusual. Throughout the whole country, however, there is always the bright sunshine, and the clear air which means so much to Sunny South Africa.

The South African bees are excellent

workers; I have heard of cases in Rhodesia and Cape Colony where twenty-one sections were filled in two days. The best record I personally know of is a September swarm put into a new hive, and it produced 48 lb. of honey, one natural and one artificial swarm, and went into winter quarters with five frames of sealed honey. I went down from Bloemfontein to Durban show one June. Our bees in the Free State were wintered just like bees at home, and the queens had not laid since April. I found the Natal bees busy at work, queens laying and brood in all frames. It was quite hot weather in Natal. I have heard it stated that the short (or no) rest of the queens during winter causes less energy in the spring, and the queens wear out sooner; consequently some beekeepers re-queen every year. It has been suggested, but I do not think tried, to cellar the hive for a month or two during the winter, and so compel a complete rest. One great mistake made by Beginners in beekeeping is that they only studied British and American books, and fail to realize that the seasons are different, and everything does not apply to South Africa. There are also people who seem to think that they can keep bees without studying them at all. One great safeguard to beekeeping is the fear of stings, this prevents many undesirable would-be keepers of bees from doing so.

Bees in South Africa have many enemies; different species of birds, ants, wax moth, death'shead moth, snakes, spiders, toads, sometimes Kaffir boys, and worst of all the "bee pirate," or bee tiger as it is called, and by the Dutch "mal-bij," which means bad bee. It is a species of Digger wasp which preys upon hive bees.

There are several species of these, the banded one and the yellow being most common. They are very strong and swift in flight; the yellow ones catch the bees on the wing and on the flowers and the striped ones wait on the floor board

of the hive and in and out; they entered that they but cluster at the entrance. The procedure is to stop their eggs in their burrows, and various methods to catch these pirates; to be a white plate of oil and water placed over the hive. This attracts them, when they get drowned.

South Africa has great possibilities, feel sure that it will become a great source of national honey classed as products of the country.—From a paper read at a meeting of the Association.

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