

London for a considerable time, and the Victorian Apiarists' Association has made every possible effort to overcome the difficulties in the way. Mr. Gregson, from whom the writer of the article obtained his information, is convinced that it requires capital to obtain an output for our honey in England, and suggests £5,000 as the amount necessary. This has been exactly the view of this Association, even to that amount. But so far as the Department of Agriculture is concerned we have very little hope at present. Some six months ago the Victorian Apiarists' Association cautiously approached the Department of Agriculture on this subject, and received, before even mentioning financial assistance, the disappointing answer that the utmost the department could do for the bee-keeping industry was to arrange for shipping space for our produce. Some time previously the department invited bee-keepers to forward sample packages for the Agent General's office in London, each lot labelled with the name and address of producer, so that orders could be forwarded out to him.

Now, anyone at all acquainted with honey production knows that it is not grown or produced at will, but can only be obtained when Nature provides the nectar, which she does in Australia in an uncertain fitful way. Some seasons our yields equal, perhaps even exceed those of any other country, but there are also seasons of total failure. These facts have to be taken into account in any attempt to open up an outside market. The excess of a good season will have to be held over for the succeeding poor one, otherwise we shall lose again the customers we have now, and begin again afresh, when we have another surplus of production. Therefore nothing can be done

without capital. Producers cannot hold their honey or find the capital.

There is another difficulty in the fact that probably no other country has as many flavors, colors and varieties of honey as Australia. Honey differs so much, not only between different localities, but in the same apiary in different seasons, that an apiarist sending, say, red gum, yellow box or grey box to London, could not supply the same sample the following season. Hence a system of grading and possibly blending would be imperative to insure anything like uniformity of character. This matter also was suggested to the Department of Agriculture, and declared outside its province.

Having failed to obtain the assistance of the Agriculture Department in these two matters, we would suggest as an alternate some investigations and experiments for the reduction of color and essential oils in Australian honey, so that it may compete on even terms in the markets of the world—with American or European honey whenever we have a surplus in Australia, thus avoiding the necessity of employing capital to keep up a continuous supply for customers educated to a taste for the characteristics of our honey.

Yours, etc.,

R. BEUHNE,

Correspondent.

Victorian Apairists' Association,

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As a remedy for bee or wasp stings in the throat or mouth is given the following:—Take a teaspoonful of salt slightly moistened with water, and swallowed slowly; the pain and swelling disappear in a very short time. This simple means has saved many lives.—Leipziger Bienenzeitung.