



The Most Valuable Belgian Buck.

Lord Britain was one of the most magnificent Belgian hares in America. Until his death, he made an investment of 15 per cent on a valuation of \$30,000.

### A Money-Making Industry.

#### BELGIAN HARES.

The greatest profit in rearing Belgian hares consists mostly in the sale of animals for breeding purposes. While the ordinary mother rabbit weighs 8 to 9 lbs, those marketed for meat are generally disposed of when 3 to 4 mos old and weighing 2 to 3 lbs. The hares are kept in barns or sheds on one, two or three floors. These are laid out in alleyways with a row of pens on each side, the pens being 3 or 4 ft wide and 5 ft long. Alleyways are between the rows. Each pen is inclosed by wire netting of the smallest mesh. Each pen is kept littered with chaff or sawdust and thorough cleanliness is observed.

The food consists of oats, crushed peas, chopped or sweet clover hay cured as green as if it had never been dried. Salt is always kept in reach. In summer, a garden should be planted especially for them of such vegetables as peas, lettuce, cabbage, dandelion, plantain, sage and tansy. Roots of these kinds are favored food. Strips of bark or small brush are given and young apple sprouts are generally pecked of bark.

The broods of the does generally come at intervals of four to five weeks and run from six to eight and occasionally more. If a doe rears five or six in a litter the young rabbits are stronger and better. An increase from each doe of 50 or 60 in a year may be expected. For winter breeding pens must be kept warm and green food provided. These rabbits are saleable every day in the year and the demand is steadily increasing. For dressing a doe, hit a smart rap with a club on the back of the head. The neck is then cut with a sharp pocket knife, the carcass laid on the shelf to bleed, then cut across back and skinned. The head and tail go with the skin. Loops are placed around the hind legs and the carcass hung up by the loop and the body eviscerated.

To Cure Cigar Tobacco by Steam is an experiment being conducted by L. F. Graves of Matfield, Mass. He has a 45 h p tubular boiler in the basement of a building 32x40 ft, and from it steam is forced through a 2 1/2 in pipe into the center of a tobacco barn which is 25 ft from the boiler building. Pipes radiate to the right and left, with pet cocks every 25 ft, across the building. The return pipe is of 1 1/2 in size. Mr. Graves expects to cure 50 per cent more tobacco in the same space, that it will be of lighter color and weight and that he can get a very fine cure regardless of outside conditions, whether hot or cold, wet or dry. An expert plumber says he can keep the temperature up to 80 or 90 degrees steadily, provided the temperature outside does not fall below 30 degrees.

The Flint varieties of corn should always be allowed to fully mature, as there is a large and continuous production of plant substance up to the period of full maturity. Harvesting half-grown or immature corn is a wasteful practice.

Winter oats have never been wintered at Ames Ia, by the Ia exper sta. Frost kills them.

### The Apiary.

#### KEEPING COLONIES STRONG.

The first step toward proper and successful spring management should be taken not later than Sept 15 of the fall previous (that is, when there is no fall honey flow), by contracting the brood chamber with a division board to a size accommodating the strength of the colony, which may be from four to seven combs. The remaining combs in the space so contracted, whatever the number may be, should contain not alone what we might consider was sufficient stores, but a supply that we are absolutely certain will be an abundance to carry the colony safely, not only through the winter, but right up to the time of fruit bloom.

By preparing the stocks in this way the beekeeper will have no occasion to open up the hives for examination until the weather is sufficiently warm that all danger of chilling brood or breaking the cluster will be reduced to a minimum. The first examination of bees in spring should not be made until some calm day when the thermometer will register 70 degrees or more in the shade, and after the bees have been permitted for some days to gather both water and natural pollen. When the above conditions are present the hives should be opened and the strength and conditions of the colony ascertained.

As the colonies of average strength will be found at this date with from two to four frames of brood in different stages of development, these frames should be raised up sufficiently high so the honey along the top bars and in the corners can be uncapped. This will cause the bees to move it, and they will certainly store it in the cells that surround the brood, where it will be of most advantage. In the case of no honey being along the top bars of the frames which contain the brood, frames of honey (first having been uncapped) should be placed one on each outside of the brood next proper. Uncapping in this way serves a two-fold purpose: First, by providing the liquid honey for larvae food, and of easy access; and secondly, by clearing the coast for the queen to widen out her circle.

Any queenless colonies that are found at this time should be forced on not more than three frames and united with well established colonies at the very first favorable opportunity. In eight or ten days, if the weather has been propitious and the bees have been able to gather from the fields moderately, more uncapping should be done, the brood chamber enlarged, if found necessary; frames containing honey should be placed on the division board "A la Sibbald," which is a positive prevention of starvation and an excellent stimulant for the extension of the brood nest.

Do anything and everything that will not disorganize or endanger the colony, but that which will compel them to convert honey into brood because it is bees we must get at this time. If we can expect to have our supers rapidly filled when the main harvest arrives. From this time up to the fruit bloom, frames should be added to the brood chamber, and frames of honey inserted as often as the condition of the colony and the amount gathered from outside may demand, always selecting a fine and proper

day for the operation. At the opening of fruit bloom is the time when all full winged queens should be clipped.

As the queen is heading for the top bar when the frame is held on an angle, I catch her by the wings with the finger and thumb of the right hand, and then pass her over to the finger and thumb of the left hand, securing her by the two legs on her left side. When held in this position she cannot squirm, and the operator's right hand is at liberty to remove (with a pair of scissors) any portion of the wings desired. When completed, simply hold her close to the comb, relax the pressure suddenly and she is at liberty without her body ever having been touched. —(D. W. Helse, Ontario Co, Ont.)

### HONEY AS FOOD AND MEDICINE.

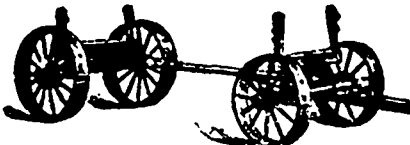
Honey used to be one of the most important farm products of Europe. Time has made great changes in the quality of the product sold by merchants. To-day, the cheaper the article (partly not being considered) the quicker it will sell. Before sugar became such a staple article of food, honey was the sweet generally in use. It is estimated that 60 lbs sugar is consumed on an average by each person in the U. S. When honey was in general use as a food we knew but little about Bright's disease, diabetes, etc. Cheap sweets, such as sugar and molasses, have not done much to improve the general health of the country.

Right at the door of every farmer should be found the finest and purest sweets obtainable, this in the form of honey gathered by bees. Honey is the only food that does not leave a residue or coating in the stomach. On the contrary, it cleanses and cleans the stomach, which means the whole system, for most troubles of sickness to-day arise first in the stomach. The deception practiced by putting glucose in fancy jars with bright labels has turned people somewhat against honey. But that does not say that honey when pure is not wholesome. —[J. H. Denyer, Northampton Co, Pa.]

I have welcomed the coming of F & H for years until I regard the coming of the paper as an old friend. Long live F & H. Its good influence is far reaching. —[George Swift, S D.]

### A Low Wagon at a Low Price.

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