

The St. Tammany Farmer.

"The Blessings of Government, Like the Dew from Heaven, Should Descend Alike Upon the Rich and the Poor"

W. G. KENTZEL, Editor.

COVINGTON, ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LA. SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1903.

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Bee Talk.

Well, bee keepers, I have a few words to say through the columns of the FARMER, to those who have bees in this country. I wrote a letter a while back on bees and their habits and so on, but dropping the interest I had at that time I dropped the business. Now I have full control and the management of the bees to myself, and I will write a letter on bee culture and its latest addition. I will now take up the Queen bee: When a colony of bees loses its Queen, from any cause, or when they begin thinking of swarming in spring, they prepare to raise a Queen by constructing queen cells. This is done by enlarging a cell, drawing out and inclining it downward. It resembles in size and appearance when completed, a peanut. If a colony loses its Queen, and has no eggs or brood in the hive, they cannot possibly raise a Queen, and unless they are supplied by the apiarist with a Queen or brood from which to raise one, they will surely dwindle down and die out, but if they have a brood they will select probably a dozen or two cells, and by feeding them heavily with so-called royal jelly, (different from the food given to the working brood) and by enlarging the cell, they raise a lot of Queens. Queens hatch out in 16 days from the time the egg is laid, and the one that hatches out first, usually, with the assistance of the worker bees, destroy all the remaining Queen cells. If, however, two or more hatch out about the same time they soon meet and engage in mortal combat, and one or the other receives a fatal sting, for except in very rare instances, only one Queen reigns in a bee hive. When a Queen is four or five days old she flies out in the air, meets a drone upon the wing and thereby becomes fertilized, or impregnated, and in two or three days she begins laying. If an Italian Queen meets a black drone upon her wedding flight, her progeny will be a cross between the two races, called hybrid. But, if she is impregnated by an Italian drone her bees will be pure Italian bees. Her chance for pure mating therefore depends upon the relative number of Italian and black in her immediate neighborhood. We will say here that, although provided with a sting, a Queen never stoops to use it upon anything but royalty, as above stated; they may be rolled in the fingers, mashed, picked to pieces, and they won't attempt to sting. Whenever it becomes necessary to handle a queen catch her with the fourth finger and thumb, by the wings, and never by the body, as there is danger of injuring her by pressure. I will come again.

JAMES W. ALLISON.

DEATH RATE DECREASING.

The 1900 census shows a decrease of 10 per cent in the general death rate. The decline in Consumption is more marked than any other disease. Many causes are attributed, but it is safe to say that Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colic is responsible for this decline to a large extent. Many a life has been saved by its use. There is nothing anywhere just as good for Lung and Throat troubles. It's positively guaranteed by J. L. Watkins, of the City Drugstore. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

Population is business. It enhances values, it makes customers for merchants, depositors for banks, shippers for railroads and readers for newspapers. What we have to offer for property, or labor, or talent, or wares of any sort, is rendered more valuable by increasing the demand for it, and the humblest artisan as well as the richest capitalist is bound to receive his due share of the benefit. We sadly lack the population to give us the momentum that will make us prosperous and powerful in the degree to which nature has entitled us. The obvious thing to do is to attract immigrants, and the ways and means should have immediate and earnest attention.—Houston Post.

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