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### LIFE ON A BEE RANCH.

able Industry.

Various Methods of Work-How t Get Coin Out of the Honey-Comb.

Prior to the American occupation of cific coast, and it was only after great trouble and much expense that a small stock, consisting of but four "swarms," was brought here by way of Panama some twenty five years ago. So highly valued were they that \$50 to \$100 per swarm

Italian-while there are also hybrids of the two of different degrees of purity.

REQUISITE FOR A BANCH

The section of California most favor-ble to successful bee culture comprises the counties of Los Angeles, San Bernar-dino, San Diego, San Buenaventura, and Sa ta Barbara, being the entire southern portion of the State. Scattered here and here, often in the most out-of-the-way but lovely and picturesque nooks of the mountain canyons, may be found numer-ous bee ranches, as California apiaries are called. As an inappeiciable extent of level land is required for this most interesting pursuit and locality affording suf-ficiens space for his own residence and those of the bees, with running water in clove proximity, will afford the beekeeper all the necessary requisites for a bee ranch. Of course, if one wishes to engage in fruit raising or farming to any extent, he may do so, as the proper care of the bees will by no means prevent him from carrying on considerable other busi-ness. Indeed, it is well to choose a location where some other pursuit may be combined with the apiary. Let us suppose a man, who, from failing health or therwise, wishes to engage in some light, out-door occupation not requiring ardu-ous manual labor; especially for a con-sumptively inclined person, no more leasant and remunerative occupation can e found.

FOOD OF THE HONEY-MAKERS. As he must ordinarily be entirely deendent upon the honey-producing flowers indigenous to the country, the location must be made with respect to the abundance in which the wild blossoms are to be found. The main dependence in Southern California is put upon the wild some for which there are two varieties the sage (of which there are two varieties, the white and the black or button sage), and preparation must be made for the coming upon the chemisal brush or "greasewood."
The white sage grows in clumps, covering vast stretches of mountain and plain, and each spring sends out long and slender shoots, which are covered for their entire length with clusters of a most beautiful and delicate little flower, which yield the flavor. These shoots frequently grow to such a height as to overtop a mounted horseman and when in bloom present a most beautiful appearance. The ball sage is of a very low growth and does not produce as fine an article of honey as does its sister. The chemisal is an evergreen.

Season. A number of hives must be made condition, on the 1st of November the corresponding at least to the number of account stood: One hundred and twenty the cachen. The captives of bees, or exactly, double the start; over \$700 in coin as clear profit from sales of honey and wax; honey used by the start; over \$700 in coin as clear profit from sales of honey and wax; honey used purposes and a large quantity (several hundred pounds) reserved, together with a fund of good health and experience way. The same season a not distant have found the best results to follow from have found the best results to follow from produce as fine an article of honey as does its sister. The chemisal is an evergreen. Now comes a busy time. Perhaps three brush found thickly scattered throughout of found the sace of mounted and twenty the cooled and twenty the cache of bees, or exactly, double the start; over \$700 in coin as clear profit the season for domestic from sales of honey and wax; honey used from sales of honey upon the chemisal brush or "greasewood." Dr.Felix LeBrun & Co The white sage grows in clumps, covering vast stretches of mountain and plain, and brush found thickly scattered throughout or four swarms will come out at once, brush found thickly scattered throughout or four swarms will come out at once, California, and during the spring and and there must be quick work to prevent any of them from escaping. Generally a multiplied. But lest the reader should imagine this to be royal road to wealth, it is not fair to suppress the drawbacks to the log, looking straight up that tree, and he comparatively easy to secure masses of tiny white blossoms, which are rich with honey and fill the air for a long distance with their perfume. When a distance with their perfume. When a thicket of this brush is in full bloom it presents a beautiful snowy appearance, the clusters of blossoms being so plentically and give them a smart the successful pursuit of bee culture. In the first place, not more than every other year is a good one for bees. The most experience and be comparatively easy to secure. They form in huge, cone-shaped the successful pursuit of bee culture. In the first place, not more than every other year is a good one for bees. The most experience and went off a short distance, then turning around took the clusters of blossoms being so plentically and give them a smart the almost invariable rule and make their ful as to entirely hide the deep green foliage from view. Not alone for its honey-producing qualities, however, is this "greasewood" valuable. In many localities its gnarled stems and large roots are the only fuel to be had, and for this purpose it is highly prized. So resinous is in the hive should be put a frame or two in them white they are settled upon this as the almost invariable rule and make their calculations accordingly. Hitherto the entire dependence of beekeepers have settled upon this as the almost invariable rule and make their calculations accordingly. Hitherto the placed npon the wild flowers for their source of honey supply. But some of the more experienced are agitating the subject of planting flowers for the express purpose it is highly prized. So resinous is it that it burns almost equally well when green as when seasoned, and withal it burns with such a steady and equable blaze and is converted into ashes at so slow a rate as to be much sought after by housewives. One peculiarity of this heat of the cells and which the bees at one go to brush is that each clump, no matter of how many stems, it may consist terms.

In the hive should be put a frame or two of comb, or better still the frames should all be filled with "comb foundation," a all be filled with "comb foundation," a law in give a measure independent of the natural supply. That this can be done successfully, there is no question, as the plan is followed in many places in the East and be many stems, it may consist terms.

> engage in the labor of producing this fuel.
>
> For an open fire these large masses of root surpass most of the coal used on this stock of bees doubled at least. coast. There are a number of other flowering plants and shrubs from which honey is produced, as the wild buckwheat, sunflower, and numerous cultivated plants but the varieties mentioned above are the although in an unusually favorable lo mainstay of the beekeeper, and in fact cality honey may at times be safely re-the white sage is the principal one, and moved as late es october. Care must be when, as sometimes happens, that plant taken at the close of the season to leave fails to produce its usual floral wealth, then all hope of a good bee season is given up.
>
> One of the best features of the keeping

HINTS TO THE BEGINNER.

by the constructed at a cost varying from about \$200 to as much as means and inchination allow one to go. For between \$500 and \$500 a very good and comfortanble house may be built, in every way suitable and convenient. The next thing as the standard of the standard

much less disturbed. Close at hand should be the "honey house," which may be as large as the apiarist's tastes require, but must be so arranged as to have but one window and to be readily darkened at pleasure. There being two ways of working bees for their honey, the keeper must decide beforehand which course he will follow. The common method in California is by extracting. If the process is as follows: The hives are California no bees were found on the Pa- made in two stories and the upper story is filled with large frames of thin wood, each of which contains a comb of say a foot one way by eighteen or twenty inches the other, varying according to the style of hive used. These frames are examined from time to time and when filled with honey are carewas no uncommon price in those early time and when filled with honey are care-days. Now the increase has been so great fully lifted out and carried to the honeyand the supply has become so plentiful house. Here is a machine called an exthat from \$1 to \$3 per hive or swarm is tractor, merely a large sheet-iron or woodthe average price, varying according to en tank with an open four-sided wire season and condition. There are two distinct varieties of bees kept in this country—the cammon black bee and the top, so that the cage may be rapidly retop, so that the cage may be rapidly re-volved at will, The frame full of honey is taken and the caps over the cells re-Experiments have also been made with one or two other varieties, but for all practical purposes they are included in the two above classes.

It states and the caps over t places, one on the inside of each side of the cage. The crank is then turned rapidly a few times, when the liquid honey is all forced out by the revolving motion and the combs are left entirely empty. These empty combs are at once returned to the hives and the bees fill them again in an almost incredibly short time. The main advantage claimed for this system is the great additional yield of hondy secured above the comb-honey system or, where comb and honey are removed to-gether. It is wishin the writer's personal knowledge that one hive of bees has pro-duced 600 pounds of extracted honey in one season on a bee ranch in the neighborhood of this town, though of course

that yield was extraordinary.

THE SECTION-BOX SYSTEM. The other way of working bees is by the section-box system. Small sections of thin wood or pasteboard are put in the upper stories of the hives, and, when filled, are removed and sold as they come from the bees. The price secured for this section-box honey is always considerably higher than that for the extracted article, but a hive of bees will not produce nearly so much. This is owing to the fact that a long time is required in which to build up a comb preparatory to filling it with the liquid honey and so much time is lost, so much. This is owing to the fact that a long time is required in which to build up a comb preparatory to filling it with the liquid honey and so much time is lost, whereas when the combs are all ready at hand a much larger amount of honey will be stored. However, it is within the liquid honey and so much time is lost, wishes and leaves in good order. Truly, a honey cave is good to have and is something the pursued.

Bear stories are less frequent in camp than formerly, but still we have, now and then, an adventure with these mountain monsters. One of our party, Capt. P., once went out prospecting for a quartz lode. With pick in hand he comenced thing no wall-regulated household should climbing the mauntain closely accomplise. writer's own experience that a single hive of bees made over 400 pounds of comb honey in one season. This, of course, is

an exceptional case. PREPARATIONS FOR SWARMING. Having decided on the plan to be carried out, during the winter months, every season. A number of hives must be made

how many stems it may consist, termi- new one and this acts as an additional innates under the surface in an enormous ducement to the bees to remain in their hole, and these are prized by all experi-enced "greasewood grubbers," which is the enphonious designation of those who

of bees on this coast is the fact that no Having then chosen a suitable location with reference to the prospective supply of forage for his stock of bees, and a good location is not very hard to find, the first care is of course a house to live in. This may be constructed at a cost varying from the cost of the cost varying from the cost of the cost may be constructed at a cost varying from about \$200 to as much as means and inclination allow one to go. For between well to leave a good supply in the hives

supports some six or ten inches above the ground and with their openings in opposite directions, as it is much better to always work at the back of the hives than at the front, the bees being thereby much less disturbed. Close at hand should be the "honey house" which months constant care is required to prevent the ravages of the moths. Another enemy is also found in the grizzly bears, with which the wilder sections of this coast are still infested. A friend of the writer, living in a somewhat isolated location, woke up one morning to find that his apiary had been invaded by bruin and several hives reduced to kindling-wood and their contents devoured. The followconvenient proximity to the gap in the fence through which the raid had been made. Next morning the astonished who carried unmistakable marks of havrancher opened his door and, in his own language, "thought his whole dooryard was full of bears," for no less than three of the largest-sized grizzlies lay stretched out as they had fallen, victims of mis-

placed confidence. WILD BEE TREES AND CAVES. holes in the rocks, they have made their generally sought in a hurry.

homes and established communities of Grizzly bears are not yet ranked among cave operates as a damper upon curious explorers. This cave has been in the pos-

PROFITS OF THE BUSINESS. As the profits of the business in Southern California the following figures are given from actual experience. Commencing on the 1st of April of a good season ing on the 1st of April of a good season with sixty hives of bees in tolerably fair condition, on the 1st of November the of \$2600. Similar instances might be multiplied. But lest the reader should

It will readily be seen, then, that despite the ample returns to be reasonably xpected from the careful and painstaking culture of bees, it would be well to combine fruit raising or farming on a small scale with the apiary, and in this way no more pleasant, health-giving, and remunerative pursuit, upon a moderate capital, can be found than bee raising in Southern California.

Horsford's Acid Phosphate As a Nerve Food. Dr. J. W. Smith, Wellington, O., says:

'In impaired nervous supply I have used

t to advantage. Bob Schenck's Game. A game of poker played some years ago between General Schenck and a Mr. De Graff, of Dayton, is thus described by a Washington correspondent: My infor-mant saw Schenck's hand all the way

through. He drew an ace and deuce of he has no desire personally to dispute a spades, paid his ante, saw it raised, and grizzly's claim to a quartz ledge. 'Gambling, are you?" said Schenck; "I'll bet you \$500"—continuing to draw. He drew a flush, or a handful of spades. De Graff bet \$500 more. Schenk raised it

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Portland Oregonian.

AL A CANCELLA ATO FINITIONS AV. 1000.

In early times on the Pacific slope adventures with the grizzly bear were very common, and it was always a favorite ing night a large pan of honey, well theme around a campfire. No doubt many seasoned with strychnine, was put in of these stories were lies from beginning who carried unmistakable marks of having had a dreadful encounter with a grizzly bear. These stories naturally created a desire, especially among thosee who love the excitement of the chase, to have a skirmish with a grizzly. But the first sight of one of these monsters usually produces a kind of paralysis, a cool-Despite the care taken, many swarms ing off of the ardor engendered around of bees have at times escaped from their a camp-fire, and the first desire experiowners and betaken themselves to the enced is personal safety, and suiting the mountains, where, in hollow trees and action to the desire, a place of safety is

their own. Consequently "bee trees" are an extinct race of animals, for they are very numerous and a favorite and very frequently found in the Selkirk moun-profitable pursuit with many, is a bee tains and still forther South. They are profitable pursuit with many, is a bee hunting trip in the fall of the year, and they are never unrewarded, as it is no very difficult matter to find an abundance of "wild bees." In the mountains north of this place is located a veritable "bee cave." In the side of a perpendicular large soveral other varities of the bear family found—the cinnamon, brown and life is not account to the selection of the property forms. There are soveral other varities of the bear family found—the cinnamon, brown and life is not account to the selection of the genuine stock, too, weighing from 1000 to 2000 pounds, and haveng all the native ferocity of those formerly found in the selection of the se cave." In the side of a perpendicular cliff is an opening large enough for a man to enter upright, and which widens as it goes into the mountain. How far it extends back no one knows, as a due repect for the feelings of the pre-emptors of the rivers and creeks where they go to catch salmon. The Indians say that they have killed three grizzly bears this season cave operates as a damper upon curious explorers. This cave has been in the possession of bees for years, and great sheets of black bear, the smallest of the family, comb blackened by age, may be seen hanging from its sides and top, while literally is very loose-jointed, his paws spread out, millions of bees occupy the place. A con- and he leaves an immpression on the millions of bees occupy the place. A constant stream of the insects passes in and out, and, strange to say, they permitted the writer to ride on horseback directly up to the mouth of the cave and inspect it to his satisfaction without commencing proceedings against him for trespass. A settler in the neighborhood has boarded up the cave entrance, leaving a large opening covered with a wire screen sufficiently, wide meshed to allow of the ficiently wide meshed to allow of the small trees. This fact has saved many bees passing in and out freely, and when men from being torn to pieces, and is a

wishes and leaves in good order. Truly, a honey cave is good to have and is something no well-regulated household should be without.

once went out prospecting for a quartz lode. With pick in hand he comenced climbing the mountain, closely scanning every rock showing indications of nineral. At last he came to a large fallen cedar They met face to face, each staring right into the other's eyes, with nothing but tree the captain felt safe for the time be then went into the brush, and was soon out of sight. After some delay the cap-tain ventured down from the tree, and, finding a smooth, narrow gulch, there he sat down, gave a wriggle or two, and soon found himself on the bank of the Columbia river going down at 2.15 speed. He came into camp alone and without his hat, and related his adventure. The cap-

> forcements. Now, this interview between the cap-tain and the grizzly is the captain's side of the story. The other side has not been heard from. As both sides of a story ought to be heard, the writer would suggest that it is quite reasonable to suppose that the cause of the grizzly's leaving the field first was that he had become tired of the monetony and disgusted with the noncombativeness of his intruder, and that he went in search of more agreeable and exciting amusement, but as it stands the captain claims the victory, because he left the field last. It was a noticeable fact that the captain preferred standing to sitting while partaking of his camp meals for several days. The day of this adventure some Indians passed and they were informed of it. They pursued grizzly with their dogs, and on the following day a large grizzly was killed in that vicinity. Notwithstanding the evidence being conclusive that the identical animal has been killed, the captain thinks that some of his kindred might still be living, and that

tain thinks that grizzly went after rein-

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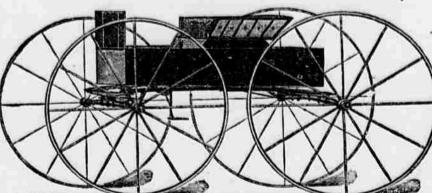
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