

The Apiary.

INFORMATION ABOUT BEES.

There are three classes among the inmates of the hive—the queen, which is a perfect female and mother of the whole colony; many hundreds of imperfect developed females, and few drones, which are the male bees. The queen if of the utmost importance to the welfare of the community and the little creatures seem well aware of the fact and is treated with the utmost attention.

When a swarm is drummed out it gives up its attachment to the old hive and location, and remains and works in any location in which it is placed just as though it were a natural swarm. While the old queen is doing her duty in the new hive, filling the nice, straight, beautiful worker combs with brood, the old hive is without a queen, and the brood is hatching every day from its crooked, misshapen combs.

The old hive is now freed from bees and brood, and can be knocked to pieces, the combs cut out and the honey extracted from them, when they will be rendered into beeswax from which can be manufactured comb foundation.

Of course there are cases in which the above method of transferring would not be advisable. For instance, if a bee-keeper should buy a lot of black bees in box hives, and bring them into his Italian apiary, he would wish to transfer them before any drones hatched, as he could then cut out the drone-brood and introduce Italian queens, and no black drones would be reared.

Transferring Bees—Best Hive.

The "latest improved" method of transferring—a method that is approved and practiced by some of the best bee-keepers and agricultural writers—is to allow the old hive to remain undisturbed until the weather is so warm that there is no danger of the brood being chilled when the bees are drummed out into an empty hive or box, and then shaken down in front of a new hive furnished with wired frames filled with comb foundation.

used is nine and one-eighth inches deep by seventeen and five-eighths inches long, and a hive to hold these need be nothing more than a simple box without top or bottom, having a rabbit upon the inside of the upper end of the edge pieces upon which to hang the frames.

The Langstroth frame is the best to use when working for comb honey, as the flatness or shallowness of the brood chamber not only gives more room for the honey boxes on top of the hives, but it induces the bees to enter the boxes more readily, as it seems to be the bees' nature to keep their combs in a globular shape.

A harness that has been on a horse's back several hours in hot or rainy weather becomes wet; if not properly cleaned, the damage to the leather is irreparable. If, after being taken from the horse in this condition it is hung up in a careless manner, traces and reins twisted into knots, and the saddle and bridle hung askew, the leather when dried retains the same shape given it when wet, and when forced into its original form damage is done to the stitching and the leather.

The moisture of the soils in the South, says the National Car Builder, is very destructive to woods employed as the bed for railway track, and managers have been troubled to know what is the most economical method for obviating loss resulting from this cause.

King County Assessment.

For the first time King county takes the lead in the matter of property and wealth, having made a bound forward in the past year almost, if not wholly unexampled in the history of old established communities in any part of the Union.

The exact figures of the assessments of the property in the county for each of the years referred to look so well that we cannot refrain from giving the reader a glance at them: Assessments—1879, \$1,997,679; 1880, \$2,120,833; 1881, \$2,434,705; 1882, \$3,685,565; 1883, \$8,801,200. This is a better exhibit than the most sanguine had anticipated.

channel from this point to the harbor proper is three and one-half miles long, at all times not less than forty feet deep, straight and perpetually walled on either side by high surf breakers which always denote the danger of the shoals. Beyond, water of various depth from forty to sixty feet is found at many points, where anchorage is safe.

Natural Resources of the Columbia River Valley, from Astoria to Priest Rapids, W. T. J. E. Gatenbein, in the Golden Rule Gazette, writes as follows: This country comprises about 300,000 acres of land of which little has hitherto been known, we might almost say, only to the Indian and stockmen, who are the owners of many hands of horses and cattle and whose object is always to discourage the emigrant, as it seriously interferes with their grazing interests.

Timber for Railroad Uses.

The moisture of the soils in the South, says the National Car Builder, is very destructive to woods employed as the bed for railway track, and managers have been troubled to know what is the most economical method for obviating loss resulting from this cause. Cross-ties have been resorted to. Several works with large capital have been established in St. Louis for the treatment of wood by the cross-tie process, and in Texas the treatment has been applied along the lines as construction was pushed forward.

Several villages are established, with prospect of growth—Montealeo, Elma, Oakville and Cosmopolis, which promise to be prosperous centers of trade. Numerous school houses and churches of various denominations are established, and a newspaper, which is well and ably conducted, has quickly acquired a large circulation and influence.

The water system of the Chehalis valley is remarkable for extent and utility, rarely equalled elsewhere surpassed, permeating every portion alike. Chief of all is the Chehalis river, which extends through its head tributary, Black river and lake, eastward nearly to the Sound, with an average depth of thirty feet, forty-five miles up from the ocean.

Another jump in the next year like that in the past, and King county, the chief county in Washington Territory, will gain Malheur county, the chief county in Oregon, and every county in California except that of San Francisco.

Our Country.

THE BEAUTIFUL VALLEY OF CHEHALIS.

In a late issue of the Seattle Post-Intelligence we find the following readable and truthful description of the Chehalis county. The sketch is by Governor William A. Newell, of Washington Territory. The Governor says: I comply cheerfully with your request for an account of my recent journey to the Chehalis valley and country.

Chehalis county lies midway between the Columbia and the Straits of Fuca; has an ocean frontage of sixty miles—two-fifths of the entire coast line of the Territory; extends eastward fifty miles to a point near Puget Sound; runs 85 miles north and south, reaching within eight miles of the Columbia, and contains about 3,000 square miles, or 1,500,000 acres. The surface is somewhat mountainous, but is mainly hilly or level.

The mountains and hills are covered all over with forest trees, white and black fir, cedar, hemlock and spruce, with an occasional district of cottonwood, all of immense size; the level portion consists of prairie and river valley lands, which latter are covered, where not already cleared, with dense growths of cottonwood, vine maple, alder and elder.

The climate is mild and pleasant in winter, but little snow falls, but little ice forms and live stock can stand all ordinary seasons without shelter or fodder. Many cattle are turned out at the middle of October upon the bottoms and tide grass lands to be returned in the spring when the butter making season begins.

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