

TONS OF HONEY IN SOUTHWEST CAVES

AN UNIQUE STOREHOUSE OF SWEETS IN TEXAS. Bees Work the Year Round and Have Gathered Tons of Their Product Far Away from Civilization and Much Difficulty Experienced in Marketing It—There's Millions in It, Though.

Del Rio, Tex., Letter Chicago Record. There is enough honey in the brakes of Devils river to make any man rich who will get it to market. There are tons of it in clefts in the rocks, in hollow trees, in caves and in the famous "Devil's Punch Bowl," which is a great sink in the Devil valley and out of which bees swarm always in clouds...

LOAD UP A BURRO. These honey cans are something of a novelty; they are flat like canteens and will hold about two gallons apiece; they are made in sets so that each set covers the back of a burro nearly to the top. Each can is fitted with hooks and snaps which fasten to rings in the pack saddle or on other cans. The task of filling these is not a light or easy one and after it is finished and everything is ready for the start back to the nearest town or to make an expedition together the profits are smaller on account of the necessity of division and generally the hunter goes alone. Even at this, counting the cost of the outfit and camp supplies necessary, there is not enough in it to tempt any one to follow it permanently, though there are any number who are eager to make the first trip.

DEVIL'S PUNCH BOWL. When they reached it, like every one else seeing it for the first time, they were amazed at the proportions of the wonder: a hole forty feet in diameter yawning open in the middle of a wide valley, with a perfect torrent of bees rushing up from it like dirt blown from some mighty blast, and all the while a roaring sound as if that of a great cataract; looking down into the abyss, for the hole widens immediately below the surface, they saw the festoons of honey hanging there which the bees had strung along the sides of their manmoth hive. After they had filled the hidden grottoes; and looked in through the upward swarms and saw the gleams of comb built no doubt many years before.

NERVITA PILLS. Restores Vitality, Lasts Vigor and Maskeed. Dure Impotency, Night Emissions, Loss of Memory, all Wasting Diseases. 60 PILLS FOR 50 CTS.

much for these K. C. gentlemen and they decided that they would form a company for the express purpose of putting the honey on the market. They calculated that by thus saving all that sweetness to the world, they would not only be doing the public a great favor, but would also enrich themselves to the extent of something like \$100,000 apiece. There was one man in the party named Ouden, who was looked upon by the rest as capable of handling big affairs, and to him was entrusted the work of managing the enterprise. As soon as the company had been formed he was given his credentials and went back to Del Rio, from which place he was to make a trip to the "Bowl" for the purpose of getting a better understanding of the work required. He made the trip all right, but when he came back he reported to his friends that it would be impossible to truck the honey to the market and that if they wanted to go on any further they had best hire a new manager. So the company idea was abandoned and no application was made to the Texas legislature for articles of incorporation or for the purchase of the valley in which the "Bowl" lies.

Then Ouden, who was more of a manager than his friends imagined, slipped out and bought the land, rigged up a big derrick and, with about forty Mexicans and 100 pack mules, started for the great honey cave. It was his plan to wrap a Mexican up in several hundred yards of mosquito netting, let him down into the hole by means of rope ladders suspended from the derrick, and to send the Mexicans to town with it and then go into the business on a much bigger scale, for he had plenty of money and could easily put up all that would be required for a year's operations. He expected a good profit on this trial trip, though, which, derrick, Mexicans and mules stood him at about \$1,000.

When they reached the "Bowl" he learned to his sorrow that the legs of the derrick were away too short, but by letting them out to their fullest stretch he made them reach across the mouth of the hole, tied the feet securely to stakes driven deep into the ground and then ordered one of the Mexicans to wrap himself in the mosquito netting and go down. All this time the bees had paid no attention to the intruders, but the Mexican was afraid and refused to obey.

THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD. Finally the unfortunate honey-hunter stopped yelling, and Jose crawled out on the Ouden rope until he had slack enough to fasten it to one of the stakes at the foot of the derrick. Then Ouden, thinking that he was being rescued, called out something, and the Mexican, hearing the cry, ran off and hid in the edge of the valley. Thinking that he might not be very far from the pulley the honey promoter began climbing out on the rope. Finally, just when he felt that he could not draw himself an inch further up, his hand touched the end of the rope and he drew himself out. Being unable to find any of his men he decided that they had deserted him and he started off for Del Rio on foot.

COMMONWEALTH COSTS. Paid Aldermen, justices, constables, coroner and witnesses in commonwealth cases. \$3,608 37

STATE TAX ACCOUNTS. Valuation of money at interest, bonds, mortgages, judgments, etc., assessed in Lackawanna county for the year 1899, subject to four mill tax for school purposes, as reported to board of revenue commissioners. \$2,822,774 amount of tax. \$1,881 29 From which deduct county treasurer's commission. 864 84 Total amount of state tax. \$1,937 45 Rebate. \$1,738 48

COUNTY STATEMENT. ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY 1899.

Statement Showing Receipts, Disbursements, Condition of the Finances and Accounts of State and County Taxes for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1899:

RECEIPTS. Amount received by County Treasurer M. J. Kelly from county and bridge taxes, duplicates and other sources of revenue as shown by the statement of said county treasurer. \$26,547 60

COUNTY STATEMENT. Total amount of disbursements by the county commissioners on the warrants from Nov. 1 to 5.95, inclusive. \$20,263 60

In addition to the foregoing the following disbursements were made by the county treasurer from the general county fund. \$1,321 00

COUNTY STATEMENT. Balance on hand, January 1, 1899. \$612 00

OR. Interest on coupons. \$4,357 00

Statement of Collectors of State and County Tax for Year 1899.

DISTRICTS. Collectors. County Duplicate. State Duplicate. Total of State and County Duplicate.

For the Year 1898.

For the Year 1897. Scranton City. G. M. Wallace. 5,906 61

For the Year 1896.

For the Year 1896. Fall twp. Patrick McGeevay. 3,442 42

Condition of Finances of Lackawanna County.

ASSETS. Cash in county treasury. \$41,811 74

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