

APIARY.

Apiary Notes.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In working with bees, one should be very careful not to have any combs with honey in them where the bees can get at it, for they would quickly find it; and when they are stealing a little honey, they are almost sure to follow a person while at work around them, and, as a rule, sting unmercifully. Very often a person working with the honey gets a little of it on the hands, clothing or tools. As a result, the bees are almost sure to follow that person around all day, stinging without warning or mercy; and it does little good to kill them, as there are always plenty of reinforcements close at hand.

Besides this annoyance, if they once get in the habit of stealing, they will be on the alert every time you open a hive, and if there are any weak colonies, or ones that are queenless, they are almost sure to attack these in such numbers as to overpower them; and when they once get a good start on a weak colony, it is almost useless to try to stop them, and in a short time they will carry all the honey to their own hive. Last season we lost two hives in this way. Honey blossoms were very scarce, and an accidental exposure of honey started the robbing process. A third hive was saved by placing damp, clean straw over the opening for three or four days. We put it there late in the evening, after the bees belonging to that hive were all in and the robbers had returned to their own hives. Of course, during the time the straw was there, the bees were not allowed out, nor could robbers gain access. After the fourth day the straw was removed, and no more trouble occurred.

One colony has no regard for another; they would rob the parent colony—that is, the hive out of which they swarmed perhaps only a few weeks before—just as willingly as any other. During the season when robbing goes on, which may be any time when the bees cannot find honey in the fields, one must be especially careful about opening hives when there is a dry, hot wind, for bees cannot defend their stores nearly so well then as when the air is still. In order to make beekeeping a success, one should take a good bee journal, and make a systematic study of it. Anyone of ordinary intelligence can make a fairly good apiarist of himself by devoting an hour or so every evening for a week or two to the study of a good bee journal, and, of course, by making use of what he learns in practical work in the beeyard, and by practical observation. Theory, without practice, is not of much practical value.

Every colony from which a swarm has issued should be examined to see if it has a good queen. When the swarm left the old hive, the old queen—the mother of them all—went with them, and the only queens left were the young ones in the queen cells. These hatch about a week after the swarm, and when about a week to ten days old they usually begin to lay. But occasionally one is lost or killed during her first flight after swarm, and in such case the bees are left queenless, as there are no eggs in their hive from which to rear one. When this occurs, all one has to do is to take a comb containing eggs or very young larvae from another colony and put it into the queenless one. Just trade combs after shaking off the bees; a smoker judiciously used is indispensable in doing this. Examine the rack again in a few days, and if they are queenless in due time a new queen will hatch, and all will be well. If they do not have help at such a time, they will in a few weeks have what is called fertile workers or laying workers. They are merely worker bees that in the absence of the queen have taken to egg-laying. Their work may be easily detected, as they lay from eight to twelve eggs in a cell.

These eggs almost invariably hatch, but never anything but drones. When a colony has laying workers, it is almost impossible to introduce a new queen or get them to rear one when good eggs are given them.

There is another condition that is liable to occur at this season. It is where the young queen has not mated with the drone or male bee. Such a queen can lay only drone eggs; that is, eggs that hatch into drone bees, and the colony would dwindle away until it became so weak that other bees would rob them of their honey, and the wax moth would soon destroy the combs. When this occurs, the owner is very apt to think that the moths killed the bees, when, in reality, they only finished the work of devastation caused by lack of knowledge and care on the part of the owner. When such a queen is in a hive, the cappings on the brood will be bulged out, as if the bees had tried to accommodate the drone larvae by making the cell deeper or longer. Anyone who has such a queen in a colony should kill her, and give the bees a comb of eggs from a good queen.

Carleton Co., Ont.

C. S.

GARDEN & ORCHARD.

Dominion Fruit Prospects.

Following is a summary of the July fruit crop report, issued July 15th by the Fruit Division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa:

Weather Conditions.—Not unfavorable for tree fruits. Somewhat hot and dry for small fruits during July.

Apples.—Prospects have depreciated since last month. Nova Scotia expects only 52% of a full crop, Ontario a medium crop, and British Columbia has still prospects for a record yield.

Pears.—Eastern Canada medium crop only, British Columbia good.

Plums.—Below medium in Eastern Canada, good in British Columbia.

Peaches.—Notwithstanding the injuries resulting from the severe weather of last winter, a fair crop will be harvested in the chief commercial orchards.

Cherries.—A fair crop of early cherries has been harvested; sweet cherries decidedly short.

Grapes.—Good crop everywhere.

Small Fruits.—Strawberries short in Eastern Canada and prices correspondingly high. Raspberries shortened by dry weather. Currants and gooseberries good; blackberries decidedly short. In British Columbia, small fruits have been a heavy crop.

Tomatoes.—Medium crop.

Insects and Fungous Diseases.—The ravages of the tent caterpillar caused much damage in New Brunswick, Western and Southern Quebec and Eastern Ontario, many of the orchards being completely defoliated. Apple scab is showing in District 6. Blight has done more than the usual injury in pears this season.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

South Peel.

We always read with interest the reports of different counties, and if this report from this county from time to time proves as interesting to the people of other counties as those reports from other counties do to the writer, then I feel I will be quite repaid for my trouble.

This is a more promising year than last. Fall wheat is our worst crop, being largely winter-killed, but the wet days of June brought up a growth of timothy, and in some places lots of weeds. These, at least, will make plenty of bedding, which people greatly missed last year. Of course, fall wheat is not considered by the more progressive farmers to be a money-making crop, but it is sown largely because it helps to divide up the crop; it proves a good nurse crop for clover, and it produces a large quantity of bedding, which is needed so much, especially on our dairy farms. The spring crops are good; of course, it is a bit too early to say what the yield will be. The hay crop was excellent, especially lucerne (alfalfa) and timothy. Of course, there was very little red clover or alsike, as there was no catch last year. The second crop of lucerne will soon be ready to cut. This crop is growing more popular every year, especially on hilly farms. Close to the writer's farm is a hill which is so steep that your coat-tail would touch the ground when you walk down it, which in former years was not a very productive spot, but which will easily yield between two and three tons or more per acre the first cutting. The corn crop is good in some places; not so good in others. There is one good thing that favors late sowing, as was done this year: the cultivating previous to sowing starts all weed seeds, and they are killed be-

fore sowing. The corn fields, so far, are very clean, with the exception of thistles.

We notice that when two young farmers get into an argument on any agricultural topic, they always quote something from "The Farmer's Advocate" to back up their argument. We heard some young men last week commenting on your editorial, "Engaging Rural Teachers." We all know that the children of the County Public School should have every chance, for this reason: First, because a large percentage of the leaders in all lines of life come from country homes; secondly, a large percentage never get any other schooling except this.

JAS. B. ROSS.

Peel Co., Ont.

Let Farmers Stand Together.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

It is a pity we had not more men the stamp of Peter McArthur. Surely the reasonable and honest views which he places before the readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" should bear fruit. We will admit the weary, down-trodden farmers and laborers have become so used to accepting everything, from the political and moneyed interests bosses that their thinking capacity has nearly become dormant, but thanks to our good friend of clear brain and honest conception, working in the interest of the masses, exposing the trickery and slop dealt out to us by the professional politicians who come around every few years with a whitewashed story to be swallowed down by the honest hard-working farmers. Put our banking system on a sound basis, and let the counters of our coin be forced to lend first-hand to farmers their own money (placed in these concerns) at a reasonable rate of interest to carry on any legitimate business that farmers are likely to venture into. Is it not high time the farmers of this country, working in the same business, admitted by all the largest business in Canada, should get together and throw to the winds that delusion we have been following, party politics, for so long, and vote for farmers. Never mind which party they belong to. And to you, Mr. McArthur, more power to your elbow. You are doing a good work. Keep on, you will yet see the fruits of your honest thought.

Lambton Co., Ont.

D. M. HEALY.

Alfalfa Yields.

The Kingsville Recorder, published in Essex County, Ont., reports a couple of very creditable crop items. A stalk of oats, submitted for editorial inspection, measured within half an inch of six feet, while a crop of alfalfa cut by G. W. Coatsworth, on June 13th, yielded two tons to the acre, followed on July 10th by a second cutting expected to turn out a ton and a half. Another three acres, seeded without nurse crop, the first week in June, was six to eight inches high on July 10th. This is a very good growth, indeed.

The Recorder refers to our item about the alfalfa at Weldwood yielding a ton and a half at the first cutting, probably under the impression that we published this as a noteworthy yield. If so, we might explain that a ton and a half is by no means large, even for a first year's crop. We were not "blowing," merely stating facts. We might recall, however, that the portion of our field sown on well-cleaned land ran about two tons per acre, which is not bad for a first crop this season, in a section where many have failed to grow alfalfa successfully. Of course, the season in Middlesex is not so early as that in Essex, and we may not reap more than two crops this year. It may be considered advisable to leave the third growth for winter protection.



Progress on a Western Farm.