

# THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

Devoted to the Interests of Bee-keepers.

Published Monthly by

**Goold, Shapley & Muir Co., Ltd.**  
Brantford - - - Canada

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Brantford, March, 1906

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The winter has been extraordinarily mild for our climate, and so far as we can learn, bees have come through in good shape, but stores will need early attention; don't let us forget or neglect. Reports from the Southern Counties say that clover has suffered from the frequent thawing and freezing. With no snow to protect them the plants have "heaved" badly.

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Cultivate the Home Market. There seems to be a growing feeling among Ontario Bee-keepers, that Canada with her great incoming population is likely to be able to consume all the honey produced for a long time—not much danger of over-production.

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"Canadian Beedom," in "American Bee Journal," has the following to say about the Brantford and District Convention:

"One of the most wide-awake conventions it has been my privilege to attend was the District Bee-keepers' Convention held at Brantford, January 24 to 26. There were no elections of officers or other routine business—just straight "bee-talk" throughout the sessions. The program simply showed subjects for discussion with no names attached and each session had a new chairman, who varied the order of proceedings to suit his ideas. Besides the threadbare subjects of winter and

spring management, newer ones were introduced, such as "Implements used in the apiary," referring to smoker, comb foundation, brushes, bee-escapes, etc. Withal, there was a freshness and informality to the discussions which made them both interesting and of practical value.

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For stimulative spring feeding, a frame of sealed honey laid on its side on the top of the frames in the brood chamber, but raised, say  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to allow the bees to pass under, was highly spoken of at the Brantford convention. Mr. James H. Shaver and others reported very satisfactory results from this plan last season. The system is followed, and we believe originated with Mr. William McEvoy of Woodburn, Inspector of Apiaries for Ontario.

Mr. H. G. Sibbald says he usually resorts to close spacing in spring for to stimulate brood-rearing. The closeness of the combs compel the bees to uncap and use the stores.

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The opinion of the meeting was divided (as usual) over the subject of Spring Feeding. Mr. John Newton, quoting Mr. J. B. Hall, said that "a real good letting alone" was usually the best, but that often there was wisdom in feeding a little between fruit bloom and clover. To the question whether sugar syrup is equal to honey for brood-rearing, Mr. Pettit replied: "Not quite, and besides, we should avoid the very appearance of evil." Mr. Shaver considered it equal to honey if there is pollen in the hive. Mr. Wm. Couse told of his losing a great many queens one season after feeding syrup.

Messrs. Alpaugh and Smith, believe in supplying pollen substitutes. From their observations in Jamaica would be inclined to think that much of the spring dwindling, on that island at least, is caused by lack of early pollen

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