

For the Canadian Bee Journal

How Far Bees Fly For Stores.

YOUR STATEMENT received, and with pleasure I renew my subscription. I could not afford to do without the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. Bees have wintered well in this section; mine are in the Hilton chaff hives, on the summer stands, and have wintered without loss. I think this hive the best of all for out-door wintering. I do not doubt but what bees can fly five miles, but do not believe they will work as well that distance as within one or two miles; neither do I think they can give us sixty pounds surplus per colony, with no blossoms nearer than six miles, as reported by L. B. Smith in *Gleanings*, March 15, page 206.

The average time occupied by bees in flying to and from the hive is five minutes each mile, two minutes are spent in the hive, and an average of fifteen in the field. Thus, in going five miles, they require sixty-seven minutes for each trip.

These statements are not guess-work, but are facts gleaned from actual observations during five years' study of the habits of the honey bee.

R. E. ASHCROFT.

Fremont, Mich., April 9th, 1888.

No one will deny that it is a great waste of time and energy on the part of the bee if it has to travel five or six miles for nectar; and if the apiary be so far distant, with no quantity of flowers nearer, why, in the best interests of your bees and your own pocket, carry the bees nearer. This is our advice. A very good piece of advice is found in the March number of the *Bee-Keepers' Advance*, which we give below:

"Every bee-keeper who has not already ascertained the possibilities of his own locality should at once proceed to do so; that is, he should learn the whole flora of the section where he resides. By the application in a practical way of such knowledge, he will be enabled to take advantage of every source from which honey and pollen can be gathered. When it is known that every flower that blooms, whether a garden flower or a common weed, is utilized by the bees, the necessity of such knowledge becomes apparent; knowing the flowers and their time of bloom, a full source of workers can be got ready to take advantage of the honey yield and the breeding of useless consumers prevented when no nectar is secreted. He only can achieve the greatest success in bee-keeping, as in any other pursuit, who applies himself diligently to

the business, not only by manual labor, but with the full power of his mental organization."

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Criticisms on the Bee Journal.

I HAVE NOTICED in your journal, during the past, a few things that I do not approve, and though your journal in general is all I would desire it to be, yet there is now and then a little chaff, as it were, mixed with the plump kernels of wheat that need winnowing out, and the grain will look the better for it. In the first place I would mention the profinence given to James Heddon's patents. I find a patent sectional reversible hive with reversible and interchangeable crates, calculated to revolutionize comb honey production. This is first proclaimed in a book written by the inventor to push his wares. Next I open the *A. B. J.* and find a column advertisement lauding the same. So far all is legitimate. But on looking further I find what I do not consider legitimate business, as between a bee journal and its subscribers—a whole column advertisement by the Editor, who has taken an interest in patent, in some way. Next there appears a long article by that visionary bee-keeper (W. F. Clark) eulogizing the claims of the invention—apparently to order. And lo! The *C. B. J.* comes to hand in same style throughout. This to me smacks of worthless patent medicine advertisements which dupe the public, enrich the enterprising projectors, though so worthless that in a few years it is scarcely heard of. I bought one such hive two years ago, and find but few of its claims well founded, and it will appear in my apiary for years to remind me of the project of ye editors to push it on me, as well as hundreds. Recommendation by certain parties does not change matters, as patent medicines demonstrate. Happily the pollen theory, that never developed beyond the theoretical stage, seems to be taking a rest. But now we are afflicted with the hibernation theory, and its author (W. F. Clark) is trying hard to disown his offspring and saddle its paternity on Professor Cook. If my memory serves me right, I read some years ago in a Kansas bee paper (I think it was) just after the author had been delivered of his weakling, how he had dreamed that he would some day make an important discovery in connection with bee-keeping, and pointing with the pride of a young mother to her first born, to this crippled and deformed progeny, and soon as Prof. Cook gave it its death-blow, he turned on the Professor and claimed only the relation of foster-father, and that the true father was the Professor, and yet in your last issue Mr. Clark is still unwilling to