

...The Canadian Bee Journal

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

NEW SERIES
Vol. XI, No. 2.

BRANTFORD, ONT., SEPTEMBER, 1903.

WHOLE No
463.

Ontario Bee-keepers' Association

ANNUAL MEETING

Experiments to Test Whether Bees Injured Sound Fruit

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During the summer of 1901 an experiment was started, when there was no surplus honey to be gathered from plants outside, with ripe fruit of our different kinds. Peaches, plums, pears, and grapes were exposed in different places near the experimental apiary where it was easily accessible to the bees. This experiment has been continued during the season of 1902, with the addition of strawberries and raspberries. All the fruit was placed in the same position in the experiment in 1901.

On July 2nd, 1902, ripe fruit of four sorts of strawberries was tried in each place, the Williams, Clyde, Buback, and Warfield were exposed in different places where it was easily accessible to the bees (a) Inside the bee hive; (b)

branches of trees in the apiary enclosure; (c) On shelves in a workshop to which bees had access through an open window. Every care was taken that all the fruit used in this experiment should be perfectly sound.

(a) Fruit exposed inside bee hives

The fruit was exposed in three different conditions; (1) Whole fruit with out any treatment in the brood chamber. (2) Whole fruit that had been dipped in honey in one-half of the super. (3) Whole sound specimens in the other half of the super. Four colonies were selected for this experiment, all of about equal strength. Each of these colonies was in a hive upon which was placed a super divided in the middle by a partition. In each one of the four hives, the whole specimens of fruit not dipped in honey were placed within three empty frames, tied together as a rack, in the brood chamber; the whole specimens of fruit dipped in honey were placed in one compartment of the super, and the whole sound specimens were placed in the other. The bees began to work once upon the dipped fruit, and kept continually on it as long as any honey could be obtained. They also clustered thickly on the whole sound fruit, but did not appear to be getting or even trying to secure any substance from the berries.

The fruit exposed on the shelves in a work shop, the bees did not visit at all, nor that on branches of the trees in the apiary. In the two latter places the fruit dried up and moulded. In the hives all fruit decayed more quickly from the extra heat from the bees. This experiment was tried but one week,