

## Bees of the Olden Time.

(A REMINISCENCE OF THE OLD FARM)

**A**S I open the last issue of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL and scan its contents, my mind reverts to my boyhood days on the farm, and a contrast naturally presents itself between the old and modern methods in the apiary. Of course there were "bees" innumerable even in those pioneer days. Log houses were built by "bees"; corn was husked in the same way. Even quilts were stitched; apples were pared; wood drawn, and the other work of the farm was often done by "bees" composed of all the neighbors within a radius of miles. And the boys kissed the girls, and the table groaned under its load of substantial. And then the boys had often painful experiences with a small yellow uniformed gentleman of very lively habits of locomotion and with a business end that was good to keep away from. In short he was very "waspy" in his nature. One incident left a vivid impression in my memory. The day was sultry; the plough I was guiding often caught in the roots that made a network in the field. Another snag caught—team halted—air filled with a buzzing sound like a saw-mill in motion—barefooted boy dancing a jig—horses frantic—screams—dust—yells. I drop the curtain,—but oh, the horror of it.

But we too, had real honey bees. They were kept in primitive old, box hives. and when we wanted a supply of honey we simply murdered the poor little workers and robbed their store. One day we made an experiment. The upper box of the hive, filled with honey and bees, was taken to the cellar and a window left open for the latter to vacate the ranch. We waited an hour and then cautiously looked to see the result. A thousand poor bees were struggling in a score or more of milk pans that had been left uncovered, and the ranks were being recruited by all the bees in the yard that were rushing in to secure a share of the contents of the box of honey in the cellar.

Such were the old-time methods, but now the industry is one that affords pleasant and lucrative employment to thousands, and my hope is that the JOURNAL, under its new auspices may be a power for good. I know the men at the helm and feel assured that its readers will welcome its coming.

EDMUND YEIGH.

Toronto, Aug. 3, '93.

## GLEANINGS IN BEE CULTURE.

## WAX-MELTING.

WHY FOUNDATION IS MILKY IN COLOR.

**T**HERE are some people who think steam makes foundation milky, and some that heating hot injures wax. Now, steam, if not used right, will make poor foundation, and heating hot will spoil wax; but wax heated in water cannot be heated too hot, and steam used rightly increases its value. When melting wax, if steam is used direct, be sure to let all boil together, (water and wax) *furiously* for fifteen minutes. Then let it stand five hours, and the wax will be perfectly clear—so clear that you can see to the bottom of a dipperful. There is now no water with the wax. If the wax is dipped immediately over into the dipping-can after melting, or if the wax is not heated hot, but only enough to *just* melt it, the wax will be milky, and foundation made from it will look as though full of sand. At our State fair there was 150 pounds which we clarified for a bee-keeper, and it too the first premium. It certainly would not if it had been sandy. Everyone that has rendered wax is acquainted with the refuse on the bottom of the cakes. Some of it is loose and is easily scraped off. This is in the same condition that the whole cake would have been if it had been heated only just enough to melt and given a good stirring. If you ever have a cake of wax in this condition, to remedy it put the cake in some water and heat to the boiling point and boil hard for fifteen minutes, then set off the stove, disturbing it as little as possible; cover up so as to keep in a melted state as long as you can. Let it stand for 24 hours, when you can take off a cake of wax just as good as it ever was. Save all the scrapings from the bottom of your cakes and try this. You will get enough wax from them every year to more than pay for Gleanings.

I wonder whether those who say steam injures wax have melted much that way. We rendered about 1000 pounds of wax from old combs this last year, and challenge anyone to show as nice a lot. It was rendered by steam at a pressure of 80 lbs., blowing directly into the water containing the combs. I don't know of any way to take wax that comes to us, that was rendered in iron utensils, and make it yellow, unless it is the one of thoroughly boiling it in acidulated water. The acid combines with the iron, and sinks to the bottom with the water, leaving the wax free from it, which made it dark in color.

One thing I should like to correct. The acid does not carbonize or burn the organic