

"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

VOL. VII, No. 2.

BEETON, ONT., APR. 15, 1891

WHOLE No. 286


THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

ISSUED 1ST AND 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

D. A. JONES, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.
 F. H. MACPHERSON, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

GENERAL.

Not A Good Plan To Fly Bees.

 R. JONES.—Here I am again bothering you for information, but I don't think you will consider it an imposition on my part when you read my letter.

I wish to know if you give your bees a fly when taking them out in the spring before putting them on summer stands, or is it better to leave them in winter clamp until it is warm enough to put them on their stands. I was thinking it would be good to make a kind of box attached to hive of wire gauze and just let them out in that so as to give them a little move around, shortly, when the weather gets warmer.

I also have one colony which I thought in the fall weak in bees and I left it in a dark closet away up stairs and I think, shortly, it would be well to take them down stairs and feed a little before putting out, as I think their stores will be short too.

Kindly give me your opinion as to moving, etc.


Snow is not near all gone yet, although the weather is getting pretty warm.

Yours truly,
 F. GILL.

Charlottetown, April 3, '91.

Where bees are doing well and are in no danger of starving, it is better to leave them in winter quarters until time for placing them on the summer stands. It is not a good plan to fly them in a screen as you mention, as it apparently does not satisfy them and worries them very much. The first warm day take a colony and place it where you intend it to remain for the summer, giving the bees a fly. Also take out a couple of combs, one on each side of the cluster. After shaking the bees off into the hive pour in some liquid food, which may be either honey or sugar syrup. Then set combs back in their place and as soon as the bees return to the hive, after having a good fly in the evening, return them to their former situation. You may repeat this operation once a week until the weather is sufficiently warm to allow them to remain on their summer stands.

Rearing An Artificial Colony.

 R. LANGSTROTH says, page 152, "The skillful apiarian may doubtless compel his bees to rear an artificial colony by separating from the main hive by a slide, an apartment that happens to contain brood." If Mr. Langstroth means to say (and I suppose he does) that this can only be accomplished "by a slide," he is certainly mistaken, as the following line of manipulation will show:—

In the spring of 1889, one of my colonies (a Holy Land) was unusually populous. It occu-