

Communications

DISHONEST "BLACK" ITALIANS.

Editor C.B.J.,

Dear Sir,—If I were a reporter or journalist I could give the C.B.J. an interesting item. I put 70 hives in the cellar and last Saturday (14th inst.) I set out 67 hives; one had been killed by mice and two queenless. There are quite a number light but as soon as convenient I shall couple. I never put out a better lot of bees; perhaps this is due to the fact that I did not store them away myself, as I had the mishap to get kicked out of the ring of action with a broken knee cap last fall.

I never had my bees gather so much in April before as they have done this last week. We had an ice storm in March which broke the bush down very much. My yard is in a sheltered place, quite low. I place my hives on trussels running north and south and face them south-east and south-west. I find the plan works well, not only for my back as I am a 6-footer, but helps the bees when lighting on the wrong box they find no entrance and fly to the next hive to find their home. I am looking forward to a good season. One of my neighbors has been giving me "hail columbia" for keeping "them black Italians," to go to her house and rob her bees. She said she was sure there was 80 lbs. of honey in the boxes when they were set out. What a feast my bees must have had. Can you tell me what to do to make those bees stay at home. If there can be anything done to teach those unruly insects honesty and etiquette it should be published, and if all Mrs. F. says is true her experience should

also be printed. She claims the bees just repeated last year's conduct. "Indade," says she "I remember well last spring of your coming over here and looking into one of my hives and said that it was a fine strong hive and what ever kind of secret you used they followed you home and you done the same thing this year." "Ah," says she, "I be up to you yet, I scalded a pail full of your black Hightalians."

Well I must close. I would like to hear from practical bee-keepers on this question.

Yours,

A. R. McRae.

HONEY CROP REPORTS.

Editor C.B.J.,

Dear Sir,—Your suggestion in March issue C.B.J. in reference to securing a full and regular report on the condition of bees and the honey crop throughout the province, is indeed a very good one, and would, I think, be of considerable benefit to those engaged in bee-keeping if properly carried out.

But, sir, when you come to the practical side of it—the obtaining of anything like a full and comprehensive report—would in most districts involve the director in quite an amount of labor and some little expense. It would be necessary to send reply postal cards to a few of the leading men in the district and having secured their reply (which in some cases is not easily done) the director forwards them to the C.B.J. where they will be published in the form of a bulletin "for bee-keepers only," and mailed direct to those throughout the province who had reported on their work. Now the above round of work and correspondence gives a result of one bulletin and this operation, to be of the great