

where they can procure the seed I shall be greatly obliged.

GEORGE CLARKE.

In a small envelope, enclosed with the above came a quantity of the seed and we think perhaps Mr. Clark is not exaggerating the amount of work connected with the gathering of the seed. It is very small, and an ounce would go over a large portion of ground. Anyone wishing to experiment with heather now has the opportunity of doing so.

#### MATING QUEENS ARTIFICIALLY.

**H**ANS Ersler, editor of the *Danish Bee Journal* writes to the last number of the *British Bee Journal*, on the above subject, a rather interesting account as tried by P. O. Berg, Torrniq, a Dane who has during the past two seasons been experimenting in this direction. The editor goes on and says:—

"I shall relate these to you as they may, perhaps, lead to some very important discoveries on this head. Mr. Berg's experiments were made at the same time as Prof. McLain's in North America, but without his knowing the latter, and the former are in several respects better arranged.

Mr. Berg has not caught his drones among the multitude of drones in a strong stock (as did McLain,) but at the entrance of the hive, at the moment when the drone intended to take a wedding flight. This accounts for McLain's complaint that most of his drones were not fit for the purpose, while with Berg every one of his was suitable for fecundation. He seizes the maiden queen by her wings with the thumb and fore-finger of the left hand. In this situation the queen will bend her abdomen downward toward the thorax. Then he seizes with the right hand thumb and fore-finger the drone on both sides of the thorax, and cautiously pressing the abdomen, the desired effect is produced, and fecundation may be accomplished. Mr. Berg tells us that the queen when released will disengage herself in some fifteen minutes. He has in this way artificially fecundated six queens in the season of 1886, and four in the last season, and in all ten cases with an excellent result."

If you want anything in the line of notions, such as we have given in our list at the end of JOURNAL, we shall be glad to supply you. The prices, in most instances, are away below the usual retail figures.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

#### Introducing Queens.

**T**HE SAFE introduction of queens is always a question of importance, and too much light cannot be given on the subject. "A Hallamshire Bee-Keeper," in an article on page 26, April, 1888, C. B. J., touches on this matter, and mentions my name. Now, I have no fault to find with this, but it gives me a text on which to dilate somewhat. For many years this matter has been one on which I have experimented largely, and a few years ago I gave the results of my experiments to the public, and in the columns of the *B. B. J.* as well as our American journals.

My method as then given has never resulted in failure in my own experiments; that it may in the future I cannot deny, as all methods may fail. By giving my method in brief I shall be able to show the exact difference between mine and that of your correspondent, and will simply say in preface that no time is lost in using it. On the afternoon of a day when the bees can fly freely, I remove the old queen, taking care at the same time to see that no queen cells whatever have been started; on the evening of the same day, after the bees have all returned to the hive, I allow the new queen to run in at the entrance of the hive, taking no further precautions in her introduction. I then allow the hive to remain unexamined for four or five days, except carefully examining the entrance to assure myself that the new queen has not been killed and carried out. As yet I have never met with failure, and so far as I can learn no failures have resulted with those who have tried the plan by following exactly the method I have briefly outlined. As will be seen, no time is lost in the introduction, which is of considerable importance during the honey-gathering season, or the preparatory season therefor, while by every other method as yet made public at least 48 hours are lost.

I do not claim perfection for the method, still I do think it as safe as any other, and where brood production is a matter of consequence, the saving of two days' time is quite an item. If the two methods are fully tested, it can easily be learned which is the better or preferable.

J. E. POND.

North Attleboro, Mass., April 10, 1888.

The section trade seems to be growing apace. Up to this date we have had orders for nearly double our last year's trade to the same period. We never had as fine a lot of beautiful white basswood in stock as at the present time, and our best trained hands are kept on the section machines.