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To those wishing to take subscriptions at fall exhibitions we will send samples of

CARDS. The Journal and a neat, large card, notifying bee-keepers that subscriptions may be handed in.

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Doctor A. B. Mason says in The American Bee Journal: "I believe that the comb

J. B. HALL. honey produced by J. B. Hall, Woodstock, Ont., is a little bit the nicest on exhibition, although some I have on exhibition is a little the whitest, but not quite as perfectly filled." Good for Mr. Hall! We heartily congratulate him. It is no more than we expected he would have from the first.

Many Colonies, or Good Management—Which?

For the Canadian Bee Journal:

The idea seems to be gaining prevalence with some bee-keepers that more money is to be made in keeping bees, by keeping a large number of colonies and letting them largely take care of themselves, than there is by keeping a less number and properly caring for them. One of our old bee-keepers wrote me not long ago, that he was going to keep more bees and do less work with them, for he believed that double the number of colonies would give him more money than he had formerly obtained, even if he let them entirely alone, save putting on and taking off the surplus arrangements. He said that he believed that the system of management used by many in securing large crops of honey caused a great amount of labor and manipulation than there was any use of, and henceforth he should adopt exactly the reverse of his former plans and put more bees into his field, so that he could secure the same amount of surplus as before with very little labor. All that would be required would be the investing of a little more capital in the shape of hives, etc., and the result would be better with less work. As this came from a person who was well meaning toward me, and as I

have always considered that a certain amount of manipulation was advantageous, it seemed no more than reasonable that I look into the matter a little to see whether I was right or not. After carefully looking the matter over it seemed to me that if we leave our old ideas along this line and go off after a more easy route we shall be drifting from our moorings. I don't believe there can be any such profit secured by the proposed slipshod way that there is by a judicious management of bees, and if I am right the investing of capital in more hives for the extra number of colonies is worse than thrown away. There is an item coming into the matter that but few seem to consider, and that is that each of the extra colonies put in the field in order to secure the honey secretion from a given area, costs at least sixty pounds of honey to support during each year. Many say 100 pounds but I put it at sixty so as not to seem to over estimate. It seems to me the question is, which is cheaper, a little extra manipulation, or the extra colonies, hives, etc., and the honey that they consume? Let us suppose that 100 colonies produce an average yield of fifty pounds each above what they consume, and by so doing secure all the nectar in a field year by year. This would make 5000 pounds of surplus as the apiarists share of the field, while each of the 100 colonies will use sixty pounds or 6,000 pounds as a whole, as their share to carry them through the year. Thus we fail to secure to ourselves one-half of the honey from our field, by employing an extra number of colonies. On the other hand, if we employ the management or economy plan, which I understand our English and Canadian friends do, of securing the same amount of process off of an acre of land that we Yankee's do from three or four, we shall find our statement thus: Eleven thousand pounds is the product of our field: fifty colonies are all that are needed with good management to secure it. Then fifty colonies must use 3,000 pounds of this for their support, leaving 8,000 pounds for the manager. Thus it will be seen that the manager gets 3,000 pounds of honey for his manipulation and uses little if any more time, than he would use on the 100 without manipulation: hence from the standpoint of overstocking a field the management plan is 3,000 pounds ahead of the other plan of keeping an extra number of colonies. The same holds good, be the number kept great or small. A man can care for one half the number of colonies on the management plan as easy as he can for double the number, as proposed by my old friend, and this one-half will give the apiarist