

Bees As Carriers.

A FRENCHMAN THINKS THEY MIGHT
TAKE THE PLACE OF PIGEONS.

In France the suggestion has been made that bees might be used as messengers in war; not as substitutes for the carrier pigeons, but only when pigeons are not to be had or cannot be used. The diminutive size of the bee is its recommendation. At first sight the project seems unrealizable, because the bees cannot be handled as readily as the pigeons, because they are so affected by the velocity of the wind and other disturbing influences.

M. Tagnac, a well-known apiculturist has conducted experiments on this line with such results that the subject, to say the least, is worth considering. It has shown that bees find their way back to their hives from distances of about four miles, and that they fly with a velocity of about 13 miles an hour. On the strength of these facts, M. Tagnac began his experiments. He constructed a portable beehive and took it to a friend about four miles distant. After a few days, when the bees had become familiar with their new surroundings, some of them were removed to a peculiarly constructed receiver. From this receiver M. Tagnac let a few fly out in a room, and soon the bees settled on a plate of honey. While the bees were eating he fastened his dispatches on them.

They were fastened with fine lines, and great care was taken not to put any line on the bee's head or wings. When liberated in the open air, the bees immediately flew home. Arriving at the home hive, they found that they could not enter it, because the entrance had been made so small that the paper on their backs prevented them.

M. Tagnac has also made experiments in sending bees over longer distances, by establishing middle stations, but he is not very well satisfied with the results

as to time. Lately he has been experimenting with the *Bombus horrosum*, and well pleased with the results.—*Foreign Letter.*

Peter Piper's News Notes.

A snail's eyes are at the ends of its horns.

There are about 9000 cells on worker comb 2 foot square.

A frog never drinks water, but absorbs it through the pores of its skin.

5370 worker bees when not filled with honey weigh a pound, 2160 fill a pint measure.

In proportionate size a queen is $8\frac{1}{2}$, a drone 7; and a worker bee 6.

"Pulled queens" is a clumsy way of expressing the premature liberation of such, from their cells.

We miss the racy articles of John F. Gates in our Canadian bee Journal now. Can one or other of our enterprising editors not induce the witty independent John F. to stay with us? We like to read his outspoken articles. There is no honeyed sophistry in the writings of John F.

If the story going the rounds of the bee journals be true, that a petrefied tree dug up from a great depth somewhere in the United States, had stored in it pure well preserved honey; it effectually does away with the popular belief that the honey bee is not indigenous to this continent.

A competent authority on such matters, is displeased with the contents of the published report of the Ontario Bee-Keepers Association. In his comments thereon, he embraces the opportunity of patronizingly patting the Oxford Association on the shoulder. In all of which there is no ulterior motive at all. Oh no! But is it not a little inconsistent, for one of the "revising committee"