

Communications.

Bee-Keeping in California.

Editor C. B. J.—Referring to your letter which I received some time ago, you can not be better pleased than I am myself at my return from the Sacramento Valley, California, and if I may use Mr. Holtermann's words in his good but unheeded advice, "a poorer but wiser man" as regards fruit raising and bee-keeping in that part of the west. The fact of the matter is, that owing to the extremely long dry season existing there, the land is baked by the sun and wind and the cost of almost continual cultivation to preserve moisture, or irrigation, is too great for what is realized from the fruit crop. As to bee-keeping in the Valley, it is a complete failure, the honey flow is from the fruit bloom, and an abundance of wild flowers which are in bloom from about April 1st to May 15th, but it is surprising how small a honey flow these afford, besides the honey being very dark and strong and very much inferior to our buckwheat honey here, the whole season's crop averaging only 10 to 15 lbs. per colony. A practical bee-keeper there, who had 10 colonies, barely produced enough to cover cost of supplies, though he told me it was an average year. I understand that in some locations in the foot hills and mountains where sage brush abounds, that a fair honey crop can be produced, but these locations are miles away from transportation and very remote for a man and his family to live, besides it is very cold and much snow in winter, which of course necessitates a

much protection for the wintering of bees as here. After giving due consideration to all the advantages and disadvantages of California as compared with this location, I am certainly convinced that I can do better here. I have done fairly well with my apiary which I disposed of before leaving for California, having produced on an average of 135 lbs. per colony, (spring count) of good saleable extracted honey. We have a good clover flow and more basswood within a mile or two than the bees can forage, although there may be some seasons less favorable than others, yet I have not experienced a complete failure. I am going into the production of honey again this season with a stock of 12 colonies from my former apiary which I have repurchased, and if for some cause I have to dispose of my apiary again, it won't be to fare better in the golden west.

A. R. Robinson.

Calumet, Que., Feb. 26, 1901.

Good Advice.

"Pray what is good for chappy cheeks?"
 Wrote Molly to the editor,
 And in due time, about two weeks,
 She got the answer written for.
 To other ears by chance it leaks,
 A little birdie told perhaps;
 Thus—"If you wish not chappy cheeks,
 You must avoid the cheeky chaps;
 —Will Ward Mitchell.

Sometimes.

"The hand that rocks the cradle
 Is the hand that rules the—" Maybe;
 But "the hand that rocks the cradle,"
 sure
 Is the hand that spans the babe.
 —Will Ward Mitchell.