

eleven pounds lighter in the spring, averaging eight pounds per colony. I had 90 colonies in the fall of '85, but reduced by sales and losses to 54 and now have ninety colonies again. Thus far honey has been coming in fairly well and I have taken 44 one-pound boxes and extracted twice from 10 swarms; have 900 sections in use. I run 10 colonies in two-story hives for extracting purposes. I winter my bees in a stone cellar 14 x 24 feet and which is under the kitchen. I place 4 inch scantling under the hives and set them about 8 inches from the wall, raise the honey-boards the thickness of the thin end of a shingle and leave the bottom the same as on summer stands. I have a ventilator (3 inches) running through the wall of the cellar and when very cold I close the end of this pipe.

I was at the first Provincial Bee-Keepers' Association meeting held in Toronto and a "big man" there got up in his place and declared the superiority of the Italian bee over all others and advised all who had the old kind to destroy them by fire, brimstone or any other way and get the Italians. I did not think he had an axe to grind. Bee-keepers do not do that. Well, I bought a colony for \$10 at a sale but when I went for them they had all "gone dead." This I put down to the debit of profit and loss. I next sent to Mr. Michener, of Low Banks, for a colony, which cost me delivered about \$12. I opened the hive on arrival to see that the queen

was all right and they were indeed pleasant to look at, and quiet to handle. In the fall I took another peep at them and they were the crossiest things I ever saw, not a bull-dog within ten miles was as crabbed. Next spring I took them out and found them very quiet—very—they were dead. I next tried two queens which stood it all right and now have about 20 colonies of yellow fellows, which are pets; they are like "Esq." to a man's name, or a curl on a pig's tail, more for ornament than use. They would not make comb honey, not much. When they do make a little they tramp over it so much that they color it up. I think if we were to take the comb away from them and feed them on taffy and sugar they might do better. You cannot open the hive or move honey about but they have their noses in it, they are the worst sneak thieves I ever saw. They swarm first, and they swarm last, and then try to run away if they cannot have everything their own way. I like to see the Germans jerk them around when they trespass on their peaceful enclosures. It seems to me that the Germans have been abused without cause. What I want and what most farmers

want is not to lose too much time with them further than hiving them when they swarm and

putting on boxes for section honey, taking them off when filled, without using foundation to start them. If anybody has Italians that will make more honey or whiter honey than the German bees in an empty hive, please hold up their hands, and the next time I am in their neighborhood I will call and see them. Thus endeth the first epistle of

(L) WELLER.

Zephyr, P. O., July 14th, 1886.

One would almost imagine after reading friend Weller's amusing description of his successes and failures that he was closely related to Samuel Weller of "Pickwick" fame. There has been a good deal of abuse heaped on the poor blacks there is no doubt, but when such bee-keepers as Heddon, of Dowagiac, and others of like notoriety, stick to Germans and crosses thereof it does not seem but that they have those who take their part. Under any circumstances you have made bee-keeping pay just about as well as some specialists.

For The Canadian Bee Journal.

#### TO GET RID OF LAYING WORKERS.

**R**EPLYING to an article in the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL of Aug. 11th, No. 20, from Mr. Allen Pringle concerning Laying Workers:

In the first place, I will say that I have got some good points from his writings, so I will give my plan of disposing of such pests. Occasionally I have them, but it never takes over ten minutes to dispose of them. In the first place, we know the colony is not in a normal condition, and the sooner we get rid of them the better. Persons will sometimes undertake to introduce a queen to them, and the consequence is, they will kill her nine times out of ten (it is like the old saying of putting the cart before the horse). The inferior should always submit to the superior. The laying workers should be introduced to a laying queen. It does not require over ten minutes to do the work, and to my knowledge I have never failed in the first instance.

I look my apiary over, and select a colony that I think a few bees would not come amiss. In the evening after the sun is down, I go to the colony with the queen I have selected. Take the covering off (whether it be cap honey board, cloth, or whatever it may be), so the hive is exposed, then I pick up the laying worker hive, minus the bottom, and set it on the hive that has the queen, close the entrance of top hive, and the work is done. In a few days in the