

The use of "followers," which enables you, to place a partially filled case of sections over the centre of the brood chamber, as you will see by reference to the article on page 3, has its advantages. There will also be a new system and style of separators introduced, which will appear as soon as engravings of them can be procured. You say "that you believe that some information will be brought out through this JOURNAL, which would otherwise never see the light." We shall do our best and try and not disappoint you, Friend Miller, as we purpose making known a number of inventions, which, so far as we are aware, have not yet been published, very important ones which we think will put to a severe test some of the theories and hobbies now in vogue with some of our best bee-keeper's. We will also tell you occasionally what we are doing at our bee farms around Beeton, as also on our isolated islands in the Georgian Bay.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

REPORT FOR 1884.

EVERY apiarian Editor likes to get reports from his subscribers of the season's work—of the successes and failures, but especially the successes—and every reader, it is to be presumed, is equally anxious to peruse these reports and derive profit, encouragement, or peradventure, discouragement from them as the case may be. For my own part I almost always go through them with pleasure and satisfaction. Occasionally, however, we run across a report that makes a heavy draft upon our credulity, but these are few and exceptional. And even in these rare exceptions, although they are, *prima facie*, very dubious, there is hardly ever on the part of the writer any intention either to mislead or be inaccurate. For instance, some subscriber in giving his report avers that from one colony of bees during the season he has taken a certain stated number of pounds of honey—an almost fabulous quantity. Some readers will forthwith exclaim "this is entirely too thin!" Others, blessed with more credulity, and perhaps just seriously thinking of going into the "bee-business," upon reading a report so re-assuring, will forthwith resolve from that instant to buy a few "skeps" in the spring, get a honey extractor, and

go in with all speed for the acquisition of a sudden and sunny fortune. Deluded mortals! They do not know that to accomplish even a good competency, let alone a stupendous fortune, skill, patience, and long application are indispensable in this as well as in any other honest business. *Hic labor, hoc opus est.*

The top-lofty figures, however, which, in the former, inspired incredulity and suspicion of dishonesty, and in the latter a sudden desire to grow rich, may have been all right. The author of the report, in giving his magnificent figures with all the warm enthusiasm and pardonable pride which invariably take hold of the bee novice who for the first time has done a grand thing, has simply neglected to state that the colony from which he took such an enormous and almost incredible amount of honey in one season was tiered up with upper stories, one above another during the whole season, and thus kept gathering honey and prevented from swarming. Reports, however, to be useful and edifying, ought to be at least accurate in the figures whether they be elaborate and ample in detail or not. Let us, therefore, keep records along during the season, and we will thus be enabled to be strictly accurate in our figures.

My yield of honey the past season was 112½ lbs. per colony, viz: 87½ lbs. extracted, and 25 lbs. comb. Increase of Colonies was about 120 per cent. In honey yield the season here was only middling. The fruit bloom yielded little or nothing. The first flow commenced June 12th, from Alsike and White Clover and lasted good until about July 1st. Then intervened four weeks of cool, unfavorable weather without nectar. On July 28th the second flow began, and lasted in splendid yield until August 21st. There was no honey to speak of gathered after that date. I began to extract June 20th, and finished August 20th. Began to remove sections June 26th, and worked up to Sept. 7th.

I sold my honey all in the home market—the extracted at 9 to 12½ cts. per pound, and the comb from 12½ to 18 cts., wholesale and retail, and according to quality. I am educating my customers to use more honey every year than they did the preceding year. Some who began a few years ago with a dollar's worth or so a year now use eight to ten dollars worth. To one neighbor, a farmer, I sold over a hundred pounds this fall. Let me advise every bee-keeper to sedulously work up his own home market; and the over-production so much feared by some will be a very long time coming. The bee-keeper who sells a good article at a reasonable price, and deals honestly and honorably, (and I am glad to say our people are nearly all of that class),