

your hive and set an empty box on it, drive the bees up, divide about equal, put one part with queen in new hive on old stand, the other part put back in old hive and move to a new stand. In twenty-one days repeat the operation, only put all the bees in new hive, set the old hive at the side of your apiary until the bees have removed the honey, then cut out the old combs and put them into the wax extractor.

A. D. ALLAN.

Bee-Keeping in Canada.

—BY F. A. GEMMELL.

In November issue the editor makes some comments on Mr. Holme's article, read at the Buffalo Convention, concerning bee-keeping in Canada, etc., in which my name is mentioned as deserving honorable mention in assisting to secure Foul Brood legislation, and asking for a few facts as a matter of history. This, as promised in a former issue, I fully intend doing, but the article will of necessity be a trifle longer than I can at present find time to write.

What I desire now to state, is in regard to Mr. Holtermann's other request, viz., information as to the time when bees, movable frames and Italian queens were first brought into any particular locality.

As my younger days were spent at Sarnia with my parents; I will with pleasure state that my first swarm of native or black bees, was purchased in June 1864, and was hived directly into one of Rev. L. L. Langstroth's observing hives and said hive, not however containing the same identical swarm, occupies a position in my home apiary in Stratford to-day.

In October of the same year, I purchased from Messrs. Langstroth & Son, who were at that time residing in Oxford, Butler Co., Ohio, an Italian queen, paying for same the reasonable sum of ten dollars, they having been sold the same spring and summer for fifteen and twenty dollars each. This queen was duly received per express, the charges for such carriage being \$1.25. She arrived in prime condition, and was successfully introduced, much in the same manner as is employed to-day, by the candy process, except that the hole in the cage contained a small cork, as when received, queen and her attendants were subsisting on honey contained in a small piece of comb. First of all, the black queen was removed and the cage

with escorts laid upon the top of the frames with a piece of string attached to the cork stopper, long enough to reach the outside of the hive, and three or four hours afterwards, when the colony had become settled and darkness prevailed (it was about 9 o'clock p. m.) the string was cautiously pulled until the cork was out of the cage and the hive then left severely alone, the actual result of said introduction not being known until the spring, when I had the long looked for satisfaction of not only seeing young Italians through the glass sides of the hive, but also saw them flying the first fine days in March and April. As a matter of course, I then, and still consider myself one of the first introducers of Italian blood into Canada, as also among those who began apiculture after the fashion of the Langstroth principle. I am at the same time perfectly well aware that there are others, but as a matter of history I prefer hearing through the columns of the Canadian Bee Journal, these actual experience coupled with data, as I am perfectly prepared to substantiate by letters received from the late Mr. Langstroth, all I have stated above. You will therefore perceive, that my first experience in bee-keeping took place thirty-three years ago, and yet I am by no means an old "duffer" yet.

I must not however, in my enthusiasm endeavor to have the impression created, that I have always been constantly engaged in the pursuit all those years, as when I left the parental roof to seek my fortune elsewhere, my small apiary, consisting of about half-a-dozen hives, was disposed of to Mr. Morrison Hall, an uncle of mine, who is still a resident of Sarnia, and who had previous to my first purchase kept bees, and has never yet been without some colonies. On my again resuming the pursuit, I came into possession of the original observing hive, which is to-day in a first-class state of preservation, and with the addition of a new roof, has received little or no repairing, although several coats of paint have since been added. As far as I can learn bees were kept in that locality eight or ten years prior to 1864, but not to any great extent and then only in box hives.

I have an old scrap book which contains articles on bee-keeping, written by Rev. W. F. Clarke, for the old Canada Farmer and also clippings from various papers published in the United States years ago, and a copy of the American Bee Journal when first published by the late Samuel Wagne, and can therefore look back with pleasure and profit to the many