

### Swarm Prevention and Comb Honey.

Eight persons tried this experiment, and while sufficient information was not sent in to present any figures, the opinions of experimenters are of interest.

"It has taught me that it pays to control swarming to get a good crop of honey."—Grenville County.

"The benefits I derived are more honey and less work."—Russell.

"More honey and satisfaction. Your advice and my experience has done good."—Dundas County.

"I have derived a great deal of benefit from your instructions. I am able to handle my bees with more satisfaction."—Elgin.

"I have learned to produce fancy comb honey and interested others in bee-keeping."—Middlesex.

Now, although the number of reports received is small compared with the number of persons who applied for, and received, instructions for the experiment, results cannot always be counted by figures, and the fact remains that carefully prepared instructions on one of the most successful methods of preventing natural swarming were sent to nearly 500 bee-keepers, and that these bee-keepers had had their interest awakened by filling out an application blank asking for these instructions. Many were unable to conduct the experiment because the bees were too much weakened by the late spring, and the season was cut too short by the drouth for the swarmings to develop under any conditions. Others were too busy with affairs which yield a smaller profit than the bees would give for the same attention.

The greatest hindrance to the honey industry in Ontario is not foul brood, serious as that may be; it is not the cold winters and late springs, and it is not the difficulty of controlling the swarming impulse. The greatest hindrance to the development of honey pro-

duction in Ontario is the Indifferent Farmer, who does not realize that while good horses, fat steers and all the other live stock on the place, will eat their heads off if he does not watch out, honey bees will gather what costs nothing, is going to waste, and will pay 50 per cent to 100 per cent dividends annually on time and capital invested. When good extracted honey sells readily at a good price, and the average crop ranges from 50 to 100 pounds per colony, and 200 hives of bees require less work than a 50-acre general farm, how is it that the proper care of bees is "too much bother?"

### MENDELISM AND THE BEE-KEEPER

By G. Deller, *Indexed*

Whether or no the science of genetics holds forth the same promise to bee-keepers that it undoubtedly does to breeders of other kinds of stock is at present largely a matter for conjecture. Much has been said by writers, in whom enthusiasm has impaired their sense of proportion, as to the economic importance of the results of recent biological investigation; and in consequence, much that has thus been said remains to be justified. It should not be forgotten that, hitherto, the efforts of those working in this particular field of science have been directed principally to extending the bounds of man's knowledge of the various life phenomena—to the investigation of the nature of living things by analytical methods analogous with those employed by the chemist, to the establishing of truths and principles, in themselves of vital significance in the higher life of mankind; and that whilst the intelligent application of these truths and principles invests us with the power to mould within certain limits the various forms of life over which we may have control, yet much research work re-

mains to be done before we are able to predict with any degree of accuracy the results of any particular cross for purposes of "improvement"; and this is especially true in the case of the bee, for practically no work has been done to subject the various strains to the necessary an-



Gregor Mendel

The race characters of the bee, for practical purposes, still remain to be determined. There can be but little doubt, however, that the bee, in common with other animals, shares the same "law of improvement"; and it is therefore, that efforts should be made by bee-keepers to work out strains that appear to point towards a definite goal. During the past few years a new light has been thrown upon the subject of heredity, in fact, the whole