

## Thoughts and ....Comments ON CURRENT TOPICS

By a York County Bee Keeper.

### STINGLESS BEES

That veteran rover Mr. W. K. Morrison, reports in Dec. 15th issue, "Gleanings," that he has at last found the long-looked-for stingless bees, that are capable of ranking with *Apis mellifica* as a commercial asset.

Mr. Morrison states that he hopes to be able to ship some colonies to New York by May 1st, 1904.

Editor Root says they will certainly get some shipments if possible (from Venezuela,) and report results later.

While numbers will hail with delight the possibility of having stingless bees, yet I very much doubt if the specialist bee-keeper will view the proposition with much favor. Mr. Morrison says that "these bees bear domestication even better than our bees and IGNORANT VENEZUELAN KEEP THEM WITHOUT DIFFICULTY."

That's the point exactly. Have an idea that if these stingless bees could be propagated and acclimatized to the North American Continent, so that they would "rank as a commercial asset" with *apis mellifica*, that their advent would seriously paralyze the beekeeping industry.

I don't wish to pose as a pessimist, but it seems to me that everybody's yard would have colonies of stingless bees, for it is a wellknown fact that hundreds are kept from keeping bees, by fear of stings. However it is extremely doubtful if they will be able to stand the climate of the northern parts of the continent (perhaps the

wish is father to the thought.)

### KEEPING MORE BEES

So friend Kirby (in Jan. C. B. J.) thinks there are already too many bees in Ontario for profit. No doubt many other Ontario apiarists think likewise. Really it is a trifle exasperating to have a quantity of No. 1 clover honey on hand without a chance of selling it profitably, and then pick up your bee journal month after month and be confronted with the injunction "Keep More Bees." W. Z. H. has done this self same thing again in January "Review." Friend Hutchinson please take notice for the time being, that future copies of "Review" coming into Ontario have these objectionable words erased.

### MELTING UP BROOD COMBS

Funny that none of us took notice of that "rapid" bit of work done by Mr. France in Wisconsin a year or so ago. Mr. Editor if you will guarantee to make a press that will handle 2000 combs in a day I will take one too, 2000 combs in a 10 hour day would mean about three a minute, certainly pretty quick work.

Mr. France is one of our most reliable and conservative of bee-keepers and I am inclined to think there has been some mistake in the report. If not; wish Mr. France would explain the modus operandi so that more of us could go and do likewise.

### SHALL WE MAKE OUR OWN HIVES

Quite a discussion on this matter has been going on recently between the editors of "Review," and "Gleanings."

Editor Hutchinson takes the stand that owing to recent sharp advances in hives, that beekeepers can save a lot by making their hives; while Editor Root takes the opposite view.

Mr. Hutchinson instances the fact that he has by actual experiment recently made hives that cost him

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