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HODGETTS,  
Secretary.

## A CANADIAN REPORTER FOR THE NATIONAL

A reporter for the coming National Convention is one of the things to be looked after with care. Possibly not more than 10 per cent. of the members can attend the convention; the rest must depend upon a printed report of what was said and done. They pay their money to support the Association, and we owe it to them to give them a complete and accurate report. The best reporter that we have ever employed is Mr. George Angus, of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He has had a lot of experience in reporting bee conventions, has caught on to the technical terms, and furnishes a report all correctly worded and ready to be handed over to the printer without correction. I am pleased to be able to announce that we have secured his services for the coming convention at Detroit, and those who find it impossible to attend may comfort themselves in knowing that they can sit at their own firesides and read exactly what was said and done.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON,  
Secretary N.B.K.A.

## ADVICE FOR MR. BELL

In your issue for April I observe an article by Rev. Wm. Bell. An editorial foot-note suggests that some other Western bee-keeper may be able to offer help. My experience has been so different to Mr. Bell's that I find it difficult to understand how his troubles have arisen. There can be practically no climatic difference between his situation and mine, and the only reason for the spring dwindling which he deprecates that I can think of is an apiary unsheltered from the wind. I do not think it possible to keep bees profitably here unless there is a considerable amount of bluff to break the wind. The single-walled, eight-frame hive cannot account for the trouble, as I

use them exclusively and have yet to see my first case of spring dwindling. I started with a single colony eleven years ago, and lost it and the swarm it cast in the winter. The following spring I bought another colony, and since then I have increased steadily, till I have ninety-six colonies at the present time. I have even greater difficulty in understanding how Mr. Bell has been so unlucky in wintering. My cellar (which I described in a recent number of *Gleanings*) is not to be compared to his as a winter repository for bees. It is under a dwelling house, has clay floor and sides, is always more or less damp, and in it I am accustomed to store and pulp roots throughout the winter. Yet this is my record for the past three years:

Winter 1905-06, 50 colonies—no loss.

Winter 1906-07, 70 colonies—no loss.

Winter 1907-08, 98 colonies—two lost from want of stores.

Showing a total loss in the three winters of about 1 per cent. I fear that this letter will not prove very helpful to Mr. Bell, and indeed the only suggestion that I can offer is that he should requeen all his colonies this year with queens from some reliable breeder. I am entirely of Mr. McEvoy's opinion that poor queens account for most of the spring trouble, and in this country, where apiaries are few and wild bees non-existent, the need of an occasional change of blood is imperative.

The article by me in the April *C.B.J.* should have been headed "The Economics of Bee Culture," not "The Enemies of Bee Culture."

WM. L. COUPER.

## DUCKS IN THE APIARY

In a recent issue of *Gleanings in Bee Culture*, under the above heading, B. F. Miller, of Memphis, Tenn., asks the question: "How would it do to keep ducks in the apiary, for keeping down the