

### Good Advice re Churning---Some Questions Asked.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—Please find enclosed \$2 for the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. I like your paper much. I have been somewhat interested in the separator discussion. A good bit is said about the ease with which it is turned by a child. I should like to know something about the simplicity of its operations. Would it be possible to leave the operation occasionally to the younger members of the family without liability of serious loss? I have always understood that it required a good bit of judgment in running it at a certain speed.

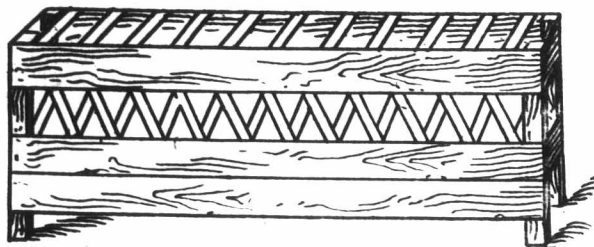
There seems to be a great many in trouble with the churn. I think if the farmer would try to have a few cows come in fresh in the fall and occasionally one through the winter, and then follow the advice of Bro. E. C. Bligh, as given in Feb. 1st issue, with regard to the handling of the cream, there would not be much complaint. We churn two to three times per week and find no trouble. I do not think it good advice to churn at a temperature of 80°. In this district it would be utterly impossible to make good butter churning at that temperature, whatever Bro. Miller could do at Brockville (neither could Mrs. Jones, so she says). Of course there are occasionally other causes than those mentioned which contribute sometimes to long churning, such as having the cream too thin, from too large percentage of skim milk, or from a cow like Bro. Cole has. By-the-by, if I were Bro. Cole I would let the butcher settle with that cow, unless he values her as one which he had with him in the Ark (as Bro. Cole lives on Mount Arrarat), but I believe the great trouble in general is that the poor housewife who is worried with much serving has neither the time nor inclination to study the general rules that govern buttermaking. Every farmer should make himself master of the situation, and be in a position to come to the rescue of the poor tired wife when the butter will not come.

Parry Sound District, Ont. W. H. SILVESTER.

### HELPING HAND.

#### Another Sheep Rack.

JOHN MILLIKEN, Middlesex Co., Ont.:—"I am a new subscriber to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and wish to say that I am more than pleased with it, as I consider that there are articles in every number any one of which is worth more than the subscription price of the paper for a year. I noticed in the issue of Jan. 16th an enquiry by Arthur F. O'Neil for a plan of the best feeding rack for sheep, and in the previous number a description by Mr. Caverhill of rack used by him, and which he says has given good satisfaction. There are some points about this rack which I like very well. It is easy of construction, and can be made strong and durable at a very small outlay. I am especially pleased with his plan of feeding. There is one drawback, however, which I notice, viz., allowing the sheep to push their heads through the slats into the rack. They will be very apt to pull out and waste a part of their feed. I enclose the plan of a rack which I have used for a number of years and find to give entire satisfaction, and which obviates the difficulty above mentioned.



"Take four scantlings, 3x4 and 31 feet long, for legs; nail a piece 6 inches wide and 3 feet long on inside of each pair to form the ends of rack. On these cross pieces nail three boards, 12 feet long and 12 inches wide, to form bottom. Around this bottom nail a board six inches wide. Three inches of this board should project above the bottom, and it should be well nailed to bottom boards. Nail a board 6 inches wide around the top; have upper edges even with top of posts. Use slats 2 inches wide; nail upper end to inside of top board, and lower end to center of bottom. Have these slats 21 inches apart, which is sufficiently wide to allow the sheep to eat, and at the same time prevents them from pushing their heads into the rack and wasting their feed. The lower side boards and bottom form a trough 3 inches deep, into which will fall heads of clover, seeds, etc., and will also be found useful for the purpose of feeding roots, oats or chop. The ends of the rack may either be boarded close or slatted, and will be found large enough for sixteen sheep."

[NOTE.—We have used sheep racks with slats so close that the sheep could get only their noses in for the hay, and others in which they could insert their heads, and invariably found much less waste with the latter form, as then the sheep kept their heads in all the time they were feeding. We cannot see any advantage in having the top cross slats as shown in cut, which would make it difficult to get the hay in for the sheep. EDITOR.]

### Handling a Cross Sow.

There has been much written about cross sows at farrowing time. The best way that I know to handle a cross sow is to make a crate with 1 x 5 inch strips; have the crate just large enough to fit over the sow nicely and without any bottom to it. Leave the strips four or five inches apart so that the sow will get her nose between them. When you have the sow in the crate tie her front feet to each front corner of the crate, and that will draw her nose tight between two slats; next bind each hind foot to the hind corners of the crate, and when you have that done all you have to do is to upset the crate and let the young pigs around the sow. By this means she cannot hurt them either with her head or feet, and if the young ones are strong they will soon master her, and she will let the milk down to them, and the little pigs can run over her nose and she can't bite them, and may be kept in that position as long as necessary.

G. H.  
Oxford Co., Ont.

### APIARY.

#### Union Beekeepers' Convention.

SPRING MANAGEMENT.

A number of expert beekeepers from the counties surrounding Brantford, Ont., met in convention at Brantford on Feb. 9th for a two-days convention. Mr. Jacob Alpagh, of Galt, was elected chairman, and without further delay discussion upon the work in the apiary commenced. There were no papers read, but a number of practical questions that had been prepared by Mr. R. F. Holtermann, Brantford, and others were taken up consecutively and discussed at length. Commencing on the right of the chairman, the questions went round, each beekeeper who wished giving his method of dealing with the branch of work under discussion. At the first session the entire field of spring management was covered, and at subsequent sessions many troublesome questions were well handled. At the close of the meeting it was generally decided that the convention had been the most helpful one yet held in Canada. It was decided to hold a similar gathering in Brantford one year hence.

*When bees are wintering well in the cellar, without signs of dysentery, when should they be put out on summer stands?*

The replies made were generally favorable to setting them out as early as the weather would allow of a cleansing flight without fear of the bees becoming chilled. This, in the experience of many living in the Brantford district, is during the first half of March. It was considered wise to not put them out while there was any snow to speak of left on the ground. They should be put out on a warm day, early enough in the day to allow them at least two hours of flight before evening.

*Should all the hives be set out at once?*

When one has a small number of swarms they may be set out on the same day, provided they are placed at some distance apart. When one has upwards of say sixty colonies they should be set out a part at a time and to different parts of the yard, but all should be set out as soon as possible after the proper time arrives. One member said he once set out his entire 200 colonies and lost all but 40 on account of their mixing and getting chilled.

*Should they be set on the old stands?*

A discussion arose over this question as to whether or not the bees recognize their old stands, and it came out that when no attention was paid to getting the hives onto their old stands no evils resulted. While there are generally many of last year's bees in the spring colony, they never desert the colony to take up quarters at the old stand.

*When should bees wintered inside be examined in spring?*

As soon as they are put out it should be observed by their weight whether or not they have stores enough, and are flying in apparently good condition. If these conditions are right no further attention was considered necessary. Sufficient stores without activity indicates weakness or perhaps loss of the queen. The bottom boards of the hives should be changed and cleaned. Whenever examination is necessary it should be given as far as possible from the bottom, so as not to break open the sealed quilt on top.

*What protection should the colonies be given when taken out of the cellar in March?*

Put on a super four or five inches deep and pack with shavings or leaves, or put a jute or duck cushion on top of the sealed quilt over the frames. They should have the protection of a board fence on north and west, and the entrance should be contracted. If the colony is weak the combs the bees cannot cover should be taken out and the brood chamber contracted by means of dummies. If the weather continues cold for over a week, outside protection should be given, such as an outer case packed with shavings, sawdust, chaff or leaves.

*When bees are wintered outside, when should they be first examined?*

From the 20th of May to the end of June was claimed to be as early as the hives should be opened. As soon as the weather is warm enough to admit of the brood being examined outside it should be ascertained whether or not the colonies each have queens. Now is the time to clip the queen's wings, and unite weak colonies and drone-laying colonies.

Do this work only during a few hours in the middle of the day. Take away a drone-laying queen 24 hours before uniting. It was generally conceded that when colonies are flying well after spring opens no further examination is needed till they need supers, but colonies that appear not just right should be marked and looked after. Leave on the packing till steady warm weather has set in.

*When bees are short of stores in spring, what is the best way of supplying them?*

If one has capped comb it may be uncapped and given them. It was considered good practice to fill empty combs by holding them in a slanting position and pouring on the honey or syrup while warm from a coffee-pot or a similar vessel. By pouring slowly the combs will fill and not leak. When one side is filled it can be turned over and the other side filled the same way. One member has found it satisfactory to place a feeder under the cushion on top of the frames and pour honey or syrup in by means of a funnel, so as not to disturb the sealed quilt. Another member has a flap in the center of the quilt and pours the honey into the feeder through that. He has used this in midwinter without ill effects. It was also recommended to feed from the entrance with a glass sealer on its side, having gauze over the mouth. Unless the bees have a liberal quantity of stores they will not produce brood satisfactorily.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

### GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

#### Ontario Fruit-growers' Outlook.

BY JOHN B. PETTIT, WENTWORTH, CO., ONT.

When we think of the apparently reckless manner in which many of the population of the Province of Ontario are rushing into the growing of fruit as a means of securing a livelihood, a doubt arises in my mind whether many of us ever take into serious consideration what is to take place inside of ten years hence in connection with the fruit industry in our Province and in many of the fruit-producing States of the American Union. In the Niagara Peninsula, that section of the Province lying along the south shore of Lake Ontario, between Hamilton and Niagara Falls, a section that years ago, on account of its output of fruit of all kinds, gained for itself the distinction of being "The Garden of Canada"; then again, in the extreme western portion of the Province, in the newer counties of Essex and Kent, we have large areas of extremely fertile and rich soils, with climatic influences favorable to the production and maturity of the very choicest of all kinds of fruits which we commonly assign to the tender class, such as peaches, grapes, and many varieties of plums. Last season the growers in Essex County very clearly demonstrated to us this fact, and they were able to cause those large growers in the central part of the Province to look with astonishment at the excellent sample and enormous production of the very finest peaches. Again, in other sections of our Province we find soil and climate particularly adapted to the production of the more hardy fruit, the apple, and the growers about the northern shore of Lake Ontario, near the eastern end of the Province, have surprised the fruit-growing world with the sample of this kind of fruit they have been sending to the markets, both home and foreign, this last few years. Thus we see that we have such soil and climate as cannot be surpassed by any section of country on the American continent, and plenty of it to supply many millions of a population with fruit of the very choicest quality.

But what is the present state of affairs? Already it is a question in the minds of many of our old and experienced fruit-growers whether it is a profitable business or not; and well it may be when we take into consideration the prevailing prices of the last two or three seasons. And we must remember while considering those prices that they would have been lower still had the then bearing trees throughout the country been loaded, and had all the fruit that was brought to maturity been harvested. We get the information from the report of the Ontario Fruit-growers' Association, that in the year 1896, when plums of a good quality sold as low as 9 cents per twelve-quart basket, there was not five per cent. of a crop of that particular kind of fruit on the trees of bearing size all through Central Ontario from Cornwall to Windsor. We also know that there were thousands of bushels of currants that were never stripped, any amount of plums were not picked, and hundreds of barrels of apples were either fed to stock or never harvested at all. If the production in the Niagara Peninsula alone made the price what it was in Ontario, what would have been the result had the other sections given a full crop? If such be the condition of affairs, what will it be inside of a very few years, for we know that not one hundredth part of the trees and vines already under cultivation have reached what can be properly termed the bearing stage. Still, as the seasons pass by the acreage planted to fruits of all varieties is rapidly increasing, the annual output from the nurseries is enormous, if anything, increasing instead of growing less.

What, we ask, is to become of the fruit from all these plantations when once they begin to bear? The nurserymen assume a smiling countenance, and tell us by that time we will have worked up a market in England that will accept all the fruit Ontario ever has or ever can produce, and that in our own Dominion the smaller towns will be