

During the past two weeks we have had beautiful weather in our northern districts; in fact, Thursday and Friday the 13th and 14th of this month were as warm as any two days in August.

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This is the time of year to prevent spring dwindling. Bees put in winter quarters in proper condition and well wintered, will come out in the spring strong and vigorous colonies.

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Our readers will confer a favor by forwarding us any items likely to be of interest to fellow bee-keepers. A one cent stamp will carry matter in open envelope marked "printer's copy."

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We notice friend Holtermann has taken charge of an apiarian department in the "Canadian Live Stock and Farm Journal." The proprietors of that Journal have been fortunate in securing so experienced an apiarist as Mr. H. and we wish them every success.

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From reports received, and from what information we can gather, we believe the amount of honey available at the present time is far less than during a number of previous years. A great many have been selling off their stocks, some at reduced prices, which we do not think advisable. All No. 1 honey should bring at least eight cents wholesale. Dark or inferior, of course, will not bring this price.

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A correspondent of the *Australian Farm and Home* writes that paper to the effect that as far back as 1849 he had been closely observing the habits of the Australian native bees and never saw them build in any but the grass tree. The native blacks always search among the grass trees for honey. He is of opinion that the holes made in the trees, through which the bees enter them, are made by a large grub.

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See that your bees have abundance of honey for winter: Mrs. Harrison, in *Orange Judd Farmer*, says that she would not risk less than twenty-five pounds and would prefer forty pounds. Weigh your colonies, and, after deducting the weight of frames, comb and hive, should

there be less than twenty-five pounds (in fact we prefer thirty), we would advise that feeders be used and sugar syrup fed, so that in the spring your colonies will be strong,—and when the fruit trees bloom, you will have lots of workers. Prof. Cook gives the following mode for feeding:—"To make the syrup, I use one quart of water to two of sugar, and heat till the sugar is dissolved. My friend, R. L. Taylor, first boils the water, then stirs in the sugar till all boils, when he says it will not granulate even with no acid added." We have found that a little extracted honey added to the syrup is even better than the acid.

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Miss Jennie Atchley of Floyd, Texas, writes us as follows:—"I have discovered that queens do not often get lost on the mating trip; but, upon their return, are apt to enter the wrong hive and get killed. As we keep several hundred nuclei together, or in adjacent yards, we have had scores of queens return to the wrong hives, which, being queenless most of the time, they were accepted. But she always destroys the cell that is in the nucleus. I notice that where there are only one or two hives apart by themselves the queens do not get lost. Even the drones in the drone hive will scatter all over the yard, and queens act pretty nearly the same way. Who ever found a queenless bee-tree? I do not believe that one queen in a hundred gets lost or is captured by birds; they simply return to the wrong hive and get killed. If I had time I could tell you a long story of what I have learned of queen mating."

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It is very satisfactory to note that Mr. Allen Pringle, of Selby, has received the appointment of Superintendent of the Canadian Honey Department at the World's Fair, to be held at Chicago next year. Out of the large number of Canadian Bee-keepers among whom mediocrity is not known, it would not have been difficult to select many very competent men for the position; but it was a difficult work indeed to select from so large a number just the individual to whom none of the others could raise any insuperable objection on the ground either of practice or precept. Upon mature consideration we have reason to