



## APIARY.

## OFFICERS OF THE ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

President, Mr. S. Cornell, Lindsay; 1st Vice-President, J. B. Hall, Woodstock; 2nd Vice-President, Dr. Thom, Streetsville; Secretary, Treasurer, Mr. Jacob Spence, Toronto.

Executive Committee—M. Ramer, Cedar Grove; D. Chalmers, Mississauga; C. Mitchell, Listowel; B. Davidson, Uxbridge; W. E. Wells, Philipstown.

Communications on the business of the association, and bee-keepers' department of the CANADIAN FARMER to be addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer, 231 Parliament St., Toronto.

## MY BEE BOOK.

WM. COTTAM, M. A., LONDON.

The sting of a bee is very curious. It is a hollow tube, within which is a sheath, or two sharp barbed or bearded spears, somewhat like the barbs of fish-hooks. These spears in the sheath lie, one with its point a little before that of the other; one is first darted into the flesh, which being fixed by means of its foremost barb, the other strikes in too; and so they alternately pierce deeper until the sheath follows, so that the poison is conveyed into the wound. When the barbs or beards are thus lodged deep in the flesh, the bees leave their stings behind them, not being able to withdraw their spears into their scabbards and the bee looses his life within an hour after he looses his sting, and some within ten minutes.

With respect to the poison which is left in the wound, from more than thirty years' experience I have the greatest reason to believe that the sting of one bee serves to mollify, prevent swelling, and, in effect, cure the sting of another. Innumerable instances have I known, which have confirmed me in my belief; two or three, I will set down here for the reader's information, which, I think, may serve for the whole.

In the year 1761, my brother John who was then a child in coats, went into my father's bee-garden, where a hive of bees lay out very big; the child having a stick in his hand hooked down part of the bunch, when the bees immediately fell on the child and for want of thought he made no attempt to run from them but stood still, crying vehemently. At that time I was at work in my father's chamber, and, calling to my mother-in-law to know what the child cried so violently for, she ran to see, and no sooner came into the garden, than I heard her exclaim so loudly that I could not hear the child's cry. I ran as quick as possible into the garden, and saw the mother running about and grasping the child in her arms, endeavoring to save him from the furious bees. On seeing me she cried out, "The child is stung to death," and as she also was stung very much, so I did not escape being stung in several places, only in taking the child from its mother and running with it into the house. Many bees followed us into the house; and up and down the glass of the window, on the outside, in less than half a minute. I found several bees entangled in the child's hair, and to prevent them stinging him, I pulled them out in a hurry, bees and hair together. As soon as I had extricated the child

from the bees, my next work was to pluck out the stings that were to be found more or less from head to foot; but all over the head they greatly abounded. Several I pulled out of the tongue, and thirteen out, and off one of the ears. Immediately applying to Mr. Robert Grimstead, apothecary, for advice, he said he could not tell what could be done, unless I was to anoint him all over with sweet oil. This I did, as fast as possible; but I believe it did the child neither good nor harm. The effect of this disaster was that he looked pale and appeared sick, but there was not the least sign of any swelling. Soon after this he fell asleep and lay sleeping in his mother's arms; and about ten o'clock that evening, to the great joy and surprise of his weeping parents, he opened his eyes, and appeared perfectly recovered. We all went to rest for the night, and not a single complaint was heard afterwards.

From hence, I take the opportunity of observing, that if I am stung by a bee on the face I generally swell almost blind; if on the back part of the hand, the swelling ascends to the tops of my fingers. But if I am stung by two or more bees the swelling is very little or none at all. I would not, of choice, be stung by them, if it can be avoided, but after I have been stung once, I have no objection to being stung twice; and after I have been stung twice or three times, I do not mind if I am stung fifty or a hundred times.

Some, no doubt, will be ready to say that what I here assert is very unreasonable. It may appear so to those who have not proved it, but if I did not know it to be a matter of fact, I would not relate it. How often have I ascended on a tree of such height that my head would not suffer me to look down, and I have been obliged to take a rope and tie myself on to the tree for fear of falling; how often have I then stripped naked to the waist, put my arm into the tree, among the bees up to the shoulder, and pulled them out by handfuls, in the sight of numbers of spectators.

But, as a further proof of the above, in 1780, in taking out an old stock of bees for Thomas Honner, Esq., in Mills Park, I was stung to such a degree that my flesh was as tender as if cut with lancets, without any appearance of swelling; and as I had to use the bees in the garden, (which lay out very big) I went the next day to do it, and I felt such a fear of being stung again, such as I had never felt before, for upwards of thirty years. This was observed by Mr. Forbes the gardener, who told me that I was more afraid of the bees than he was, which, I believe at that time was true; but, as Mr. Forbes was a stranger to what I then felt, it is not improbable that had he been stung but half so much as I was the day before, he would have been afraid ever to go into a bee garden any more. However, as I expected no pay unless my work was completely done, I raised them up and was again stung from head to feet. But what was my surprise when I found the fresh stings to be of very great service; the pain I felt was removed almost instantaneously, and the tenderness in the flesh very soon passed off. On the third day I made new harkles and plastered the bees round to the satisfaction of my employer; and in doing so I was again stung very much, but the stings had not the slightest effect on me, and I felt nothing of them, only when pricked by them.

Another proof I shall mention was in 1783, in taking a swarm out of a tree for a

farmer, Luke Ashman, of Lough or Mendip. After I had handed out the greatest part of the bees without stinging the queen, I was obliged to search every small hole, there my hand would not go with my forefinger. By this means the finger was stung to such a degree, that William Tupp who attended me, did often take out of it three stings at a time. When he had done I asked how many stings he thought he had taken from the top to the first joint of my finger. He told me they were out of number. I then asked him if he thought he had taken out thirty? "Yes," said he, more than twice thirty. I must observe that this finger felt a little numbed, but not very tender or swelled, nor had it the least appearance of being stung at the first; but for days after, black spots appeared in the skin. Upon another of my fingers, I was stung by a single bee, which made it swell greatly, and it was very tender for several days after.

Another proof I met with in the year 1784, which is the last I intend at this time to mention. It was on the 19th of May, in taking a swarm of bees out of a high elm tree, for Mr. Jas. Russell, of Wells, when I was stung on my fingers and on the back of my right hand, in over twenty places. On this hand there was not the least appearance of swelling and very little tenderness; but on my left hand which was accidentally stung by one single bee, the sting of this one bee caused my arm to swell up to such a degree, that I could not without some difficulty, take my coat off in the evening. The next morning I had greater difficulty in putting it on, and my arm was very tender for some days after. From these circumstances I formed a resolution never to be stung by one bee alone, unless another cannot be had.

## ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association was held at the City Hall, Toronto, on July 3rd. The following gentlemen were in attendance:—Messrs. S. Cornell, Lindsay, President; J. Hall, Woodstock, 1st Vice-President; Dr. Thom, Streetsville, 2nd Vice-President; Jacob Spence, Secretary-Treasurer; and Messrs. D. A. Jones, B. Chalmers, C. Mitchell, Patterson, Walker, Loose, Baxter, Pellet, Webster, and others. The President explained that the objects of the meeting were:—First, to obtain necessary legislation to protect the bee industry against the dangers of foul brood. A letter addressed to Dr. Thom was read by the President, showing the dangers to the interests of the association generally growing out of the attempt of incompetent persons to conduct apiaries. Reference was made to the interview between members of the Ontario Government and a deputation from the association in reference to the desired legislation in which the Government requested that the association supply statistics showing the extent of the bee-keeping industry, and,

THE GROUNDS OF ITS CLAIMS to Government aid. During the discussion a number of opinions were advanced, in favor of the union of the association with the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, but no formal action was taken in this connection. Considerable time was occupied in the discussion of the best methods of collecting the required statistics. Finally Messrs. S. Cornell, D. A. Jones and Dr. Thom were appointed to wait upon Hon. A. M. Ross to request that

the Bureau of Agriculture and Statistics take charge of the matter, and procure the information in connection with one of the season's crop reports. The association, at the request of the management of the Industrial Fair, made the following nominations for judges for the honey and apiary department at the approaching Toronto Exhibition:—Dr. Thom, Streetsville; S. T. Pettit, Belmont; D. Chalmers, Mississauga; C. K. Trench, Newmarket; and P. C. Dampier, Trenton.

Mr. D. A. Jones was heard by the association with reference to the proposed Foul Brood Act. He thought experts should be appointed, whose duty it would be, when so requested, to examine suspected

## DISEASED HONEY.

He thought it would be a good idea to have diagrams and full descriptions of the various stages of the disease prepared. He believed the only danger of spreading foul brood was in the bees carrying it from hive to hive. Specimens of diseased comb might be safely sent to experts by mail. A live healthy brood would hatch out in a diseased colony.

Dr. Thom called attention to the necessity for the proper inspection of imported bees, and Mr. Jones claimed this matter as urgently requiring attention as the inspection of imported cattle. Mr. Jones, in reply to a question, also expressed the opinion that the present season would prove a favorable one for bee-keepers.

## AN OLD BOOK.

ED. CANADIAN FARMER.—When Mr. Langstroth was here at last year's convention, being much interested in a very old bee book he had with him, a person took some extracts, intending afterwards to prepare for insertion in CANADIAN FARMER, having already waited too long for this purpose. These in the rough are enclosed; if editor can make out to use them, then they are some exceedingly interesting portions, or perhaps the whole would be interesting if they are make-out-able. J. S.

## MR. CORNELIUS SMITH'S APIARY.

ED. CANADIAN FARMER.—I inclose you a few statements of my failures and prospects for the last winter, and this spring so far. I commenced this winter of '83 with 61 colonies, and I brought 35 through, which are doing well. These commenced swarming on the 14th of June, and I have now got twenty-three of an increase. I have extracted up to date, four hundred and eighty pounds of honey. White clover is in full bloom; weather very dry. Last was very warm—about 90° in the shade. I winter my bees in chaff hives on summer stands, without any other protection. I might have extracted much more, but I have on a number of section boxes for comb honey. The bees among the small bee keepers suffered in wintering; I think about 50 to 75 per cent. of them perished. Among practical men wintering has been a success. I don't hear of any "foul brood" this summer around here. I have seen only one case of it in this county.

CORNELIUS SMITH.

Mrs. E. H. Perkins, Creek Centre, Warren Co. N. Y., writes: She has been troubled with asthma for four years, had to sit up night after night with it. She has taken two bottles of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil, and is perfectly cured. She strongly recommends it, and wishes to act as agent among her neighbors.