

Bees Necessary for Fertilizing Plants.

IN Gleanings you say something about not succeeding with cucumbers. If you should ever come west of Chicago it would pay you to come to Minneapolis, just to see a greenhouse belonging to a German gardener. I do not know the exact size, but I think it covers nearly two acres, besides acres of hotbeds. He devotes the fall and early winter to lettuce, and then fills them up with cucumbers, and they are still selling from them, although outdoor cucumbers are now in the market. His sales from cucumbers alone would amount to several thousand dollars. During the winter and spring he is obliged to keep a hive of bees in each house to fertilize the blossoms, or else very little fruit sets. Last April his bees all swarmed out, and he lost all the queens but one, and a few weeks after he came to me for more bees. He told me in that time he had lost more for not having them than the amount he paid me—\$27.00. His cucumbers in the greenhouses do not run on the ground, but on trellises of cord and wire slanting up about the angle of the roof of the house. Any one, by stooping a little, can see the whole length of the greenhouse under the vines, and see cucumbers hanging down all around. I have a small farm, and, in addition to my bees. I keep eight or ten cows, and raise some small fruit, chiefly currants and raspberries. The honey crop last year was nearly a failure, and this year does not promise more than half a crop. I hope when you come west again you will come this way, and I will meet you and take you around.—

E. R. POND.

Bloomington, Minn., Aug. 6.—Gleanings.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Honey Section Press and Foundation Fastener.

I have sent you the out of my "Autonmatic Combined Self-folding Honey Section Press and Foundation Fastener, with a brief description of its construction and working, so that those of your readers, who had not the opportunity of seeing it in operation at the Toronto Exhibition may better understand its working. Though as one Apiarist said after seeing it in use: It has to be seen in use to fully appreciate its practicibility for comb honey.

As well be seen from the cut it is combined, thus folding the section, and fastening the foundation in at the same time, and the one operation. It being foot power, both hands are at liberty, to handle the section in one hand, and the starter in the other. The sections are plac-

ed to the right so as to be convenient to pick up with the right hand in the centre, and the starters placed at the left to pick up with the left hand, which are both done at one. The section is drawn back in the back stop, which folds the section square in the centre, where it drops down even with the table, when a slight pressure of the foot draws the two ends together by the upright pins, at the same time the heater plate rises up above the wax block. The pressure is staid long enough to touch the wax against the hot plate, and on further pressure, the plate is so constructed as to immediately drop down out of the way, and the head block presses the ends of the section together when wax adheres to the section even, and in the centre every time, with no breaking of the sections as they are folded even and square.

The machine is made of hard wood form of a small table 14 x 15 inches square, with a 3 inch rim, and can be used on a table, or any ordinary bench with a lever 3 x 2 feet long hinged to the floor. The working parts are all made of cast iron fitted to work the same as any machinery, secured by screws to the wood. It is automatic being drawn back by a coil spring of piano steel wire, so that it is always ready for operation.

W. O. LEACH.

We saw this machine working at Toronto Exhibition, and it appeared to us a very simple convenient device, and we think it will work admirably. We believe the price is to be about \$5.00 for each machine.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

A Report from Blythe.

THE readers of the C. B. J. will please listen to what I have to say about my bees this year. I started in the spring of 1891 with eleven colonies, one of which was so weak that it would not cover two frames. I kept adding brood to it until July, when it was able to take care of itself. The rest cast one swarm, except one which I kept at bay, by giving more room.

On July 24th, I had five hundred weight of honey from my twenty colonies, and intended them to gather enough for winter, but on looking in on Sept. 1st, I found that they had increased nothing since the time I extracted, so I thought I could get enough honey from them to pay for sufficient sugar to winter them on as the grade A sugar could be bought by the barrel for 5½ cents a pound. I bought one barrel of sugar which cost \$14.74, and as I had only four