THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

WEEKLY.

"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

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OUR OWN APIARY.

INCREASE.

INCREASE, if produced artificially, requires more skill and judgment than is possessed by the majority of bee-keepers. It would necessitate the writing of a book to describe fully all that tends to make it a success. A person must be conversant with the flora or honey resources of his locality, a fair judge of the season or prospects at least, and able to tell pretty nearly when the honey harvest will commence and when likely to end; in short he should know more about apiculture than is known by the majority of bee-keepers. Having practised artificial increase more or less for a great many years we are fully convinced that bee-keepers would be more successful if they allowed their bees to swarm naturally; it requires less skill to manage the bees and has many advantages that cannot be had without skill when praticsing artificial. A gentleman who allows his bees to swarm naturally called last week and his report for this year should satisfy most bee-keepers. Having only four colonies to commence with in the spring, he has increased to sixteen and has taken over 1000 pounds of honey. His locality is undoubtedly a good one.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

THE HEDDON HIVE--LAYING WORKERS.

SINCE my letter in C. B. J. *re* the Heddon hive, I have received a sample wood-screw from the JOURNAL office and have given it a thorough test. I soaked the wood and tried its strength in different ways, and it seems amply sufficient for any pressure necessary to be put upon it. All screws turned out as good, or nearly as good, as sample will, no doubt, prove perfectly satisfactory. The side of brood section opposite screws should be very strongly nailed on to resist pressure when the frames are heavy with brood and honey and require great pressure from screws to hold them in place.

LAYING WORKERS.

I have never been bothered with these pests, to speak of, till this season, and a nuisance they are sure enough. When they get numerous in a colony and long-established before being found out, it is very hard to get rid of them, and the usual methods sometimes fail. They will find their way back to the hive though dumped out rods away, and will go on filling up the cells with eggs at a rapid rate queen or no queen. Having two or three desperate cases of this kind it may be interesting and profitable to some readers to know what I am doing with them. In such cases even the "breaking up" will not avail, and, instead of one colony, several will then be injured. I concluded that if they would lay, and must lay, they might lay, but that I would spoil the *nursing* business and despoil them of their honey as regularly as they gathered it. I simply took away all their honey and bogus brood and gave them empty frames of comb. Every four or five days I extract all the honey they have and give them a fresh lot of empty combs. This will not