

GENERAL.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

State Apiculture—Artificial Comb, and
Other Things.

I HAVE received the "Second Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the Rhode Island State Apicultural School and Experiment Station," which includes the Apiarian report by Prof. Samuel Cushman who is the official apiarist of that institution. As the past season was the first for the Bee Dept, little more was done than to get fairly started. Prof. Cushman seems, however, to have made excellent use of his limited opportunities so far, and the apiarian department of the school will doubtless, under his careful and able management, tend to the advancement of apiculture in general and American bee-keeping in particular.

The United States Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations are ahead of ours in this one particular, but that Government as the friend of the bee-keeper is behind ours in other respects. Our Provincial Association is legally incorporated and receives an annual grant from the Legislature which enables it to do excellent work in developing bee-culture. Besides that we have our Foul Brood Act and Government Inspector. These are advantages that could not be counterbalanced by any number of Apicultural Colleges or "Stations." If we cannot have both we prefer that which we already possess. Our Legislature has been generous in its dealings with us, and we shall ask more just as soon as we can do so with reason and justice.

ARTIFICIAL COMB.

Here is a chance for some enterprising bee-keeper with large organs of Hope and Constructiveness. After reading my article on "Artificial Honey and Manufactured Science" in the *Popular Science Monthly* for May last, Mr. E. P. Robbins, "Mechanical and Patent Expert" of Cincinnati, Ohio, wrote me a letter about a machine for making an artificial honey-comb, which he says "will be a success." As he gives me permission to use his letter to further his object to sell the machine I make extracts from it which will explain themselves. Mr. Robbins says: "I write to say that I prepared and now have an application for a patent for a machine-press for making artificial honey-comb, with partition with a set of open ended complete cells on each side, a few years ago for a man who took sick, lost money, and went away, and who can and will do nothing with the device. It is the only method

practicable and will be a success. I desire to sell the invention to secure my fees if I can arrange with anyone to purchase the invention."

This must be cleverly arranged machine if it will do what Mr. Robbins claims for it, viz.: make a comb "complete" with full sized cells and all, being at the same time "practicable," and, withal, will be a success.

BEEs "HIBERNATING" OR LIVING ON THE NORTH WIND, WHICH?

A month ago (20th of Nov.) I reported the condition I had then found two colonies in which had been deprived of stores 2nd of Sept.—one left with empty combs, the other not. They were alive and apparently well. In about a week or ten days after that the colony without combs had succumbed, while the other was smart. To-day, on examination, I find them still alive and brisk. They are standing out in the yard the same as in summer without any special protection except that the entrance is contracted and the snow surrounds the hive about half way up. Some two or three weeks ago the thermometer went several degrees below zero here. They were evidently a hardy lot, well fitted to survive, and deserve to live. One thing is certain—they have had little or nothing to eat for six or eight weeks. In age the queen will be three next June with her "usefulness gone" as I supposed, but I now feel like saving her to "propagate her kind" another year. Her progeny live when others would die.

THE FOUL BROOD ACT.

A correspondent of the C. B. J. lately referred to a "serious defect" in the Act, there being "no clause in it which prevents the exposure of honey taken from colonies afflicted with foul brood"—so he thought, not having the Act before him. Section 6 of the Act certainly does inhibit such "exposure."

ALLEN PRINGLE,

Selby, Ont., Dec, 19, '90

We surely all feel that the industry by which we thrive has received full justice at the hands of the Ontario Government, and we are sure that Mr. Pringle voices the sentiment of all bee-keepers when he says we prefer what we have received rather than what our U. S. friends have been given by the Government of their country. We have the advantage of being in a country not too large to make its Government unwieldy, and we can approach the our own head of the Government more directly and more easily than our American cousins.—We have in our