

## SELECTIONS.

## WHY THE BEES VISITED THAT STRAW STACK.

PETER BRENNAN.—You wish to know why the bees visited that straw stack, and I believe I can tell you. In the spring of 1888, I first noticed that our straw stack was completely alive with bees, and they were gathering smut, and carrying it off on their legs as pollen. I have watched them at it an hour at a time, and this spring they were at it again.

Lakeside, July 7, '90.

We rather think yours is the correct solution to the problem, and it is the first time we have heard of smut as a substitute for pollen. We should like to have the ideas of some of our scientific friends as to whether it is a good substitute. We know that when pollen is scarce the bees will gather almost anything, as we have often seen them gathering sawdust and conveying it into the hive.

## CLEANING HIVES IN SPRING.

F. L. BROWN.—Please tell me through the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, how you clean the Jones' hive in the spring, with the bottom board nailed on, so as to prevent robbing. I have always lifted the combs out into another hive, but have always incited robbing. Also when had it best be done so as to prevent robbing?

Fitch Bay, Que., April 25, '90.

We use a tent in changing the combs from one hive to another when there is any danger of robbing. We did use loose bottom boards on our hives once, but for many years now we have been nailing them fast. At first we nailed them on water-tight, when we used to feed for winter by pouring in the syrup in the bottom of the hive, but since we have used the improved feeder, we have not been so particular about nailing so securely. We found more trouble from robbing when we used the loose bottom boards than we do now through them warping to a more or less extent. Perhaps you do not have a tent, in which case we would suggest that you use a pair of rubber cloths, such as Dr. Miller has in use in his apiary, a description of which you will find on page 130, issue of June 15th. We have never used any of these, but we can just fancy they would be extremely handy and nice to throw over the colony you were working with if you had to leave it for a moment.

## BASSWOOD FLOW LIKELY TO BE GOOD.

G. Strangways.—I have fifty colonies now, and some to swarm yet. The honey is coming in now, very fast. We had a beautiful warm

shower yesterday, and the prospects are good for basswood. I expect the yield from this to be the best we have had for many years, and white clover is yielding well at the present date.

Elora, July 2, '90.

## WHEN DOES THE YOUNG QUEEN MATE.

LYDIA SWANSTON.—I put in three colonies last fall for wintering and took out two this spring, and now I have five nice swarms all doing well. I am very much pleased with and have been benefited by the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. Will a young queen comes out to mate before the swarm comes off?

Rockwood, Ont., June 28, '90.

Yes and no would both be a correct answer under certain conditions. If there is an old queen in the hive queen cells are started and after the first queen cell is capped over, the bees then swarm, and it is from 7 to 8 days before the young queen hatches and usually from 3 to 5 days before she goes out to mate, but second swarms come off before the queens are mated and they usually go out to mate, all things being favorable, the next day after they swarm, but it is not an unfrequent occurrence for an old queen to be superceded just before swarming time, in that case the young queens match out and lead off a swarm before they mate just the same as second swarms and it is not an unfrequent occurrence for several queens to go with a swarm of this kind or second swarms, but as soon as they get settled in the hive the destruction commences and they are all killed but one.

## INSTRUCTIVE AND INTERESTING.

S. E. WILEY.—I enclose subscription to the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. I find so much to instruct and interest me in it, that I do not wish to be without it.

Poughkeepsie, July 12, '90.

\* \* Please send us the names of your neighbors who keep bees, that we may forward copies of the BEE JOURNAL to them. A postal card and five minutes time will do it.

\* \* If you require catalogues, circulars, note heads, envelopes, or anything in the line of job printing give us an opportunity of estimating.

## CONVENTIONS.

Jan'y 7-8, 1891—Ontario Beekeepers Association, at St. Catharines; W. Couse, Sec., Streetsville, Ont.

July 17, '90.—Carolina, at Charlotte, N. C., N. P. Lyles, Sec., Derita, N. C.

Sept. 1, '90.—Lambton County, at Petrolia, J. R. Kitchen, Sec., Weidman, Ont.