

As a matter of course, the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL is not to be exempt from such patronage, as it certainly deserves it; yet at the same time, Mr. Editor, you cannot but agree that there are a large number of local bee-keepers in all sections who do not take a bee paper of any kind whatever, and therefore have no means of ascertaining when or where the Association meets except through their local paper. I trust we will have a large meeting at Walkerton, as I know for a fact that the Bruce County people are an enthusiastic and energetic class of bee-keepers, having resided in the County for some years, where (by the way) I found—shall I say my silent partner in life?—who was born and lived all her life in Teeswater, some seventeen miles from Walkerton, until about ten years ago; and as Mrs. G. has expressed her intention of attending the next meeting, I hope the bee-keepers, both directors and others, will bring their "better halves," and thereby brighten the meeting with their presence, and if need be, their good counsel as well. I would also suggest that our Walkerton friends favor those in attendance with some vocal and instrumental music to enliven the proceedings. This hint, I am sure, is all that is necessary to act upon. As most of all our honey exhibit will be from next year's crop, an opportunity of thoroughly discussing the best methods of shipping, etc. can be suggested, as it is not thought advisable to call any special meeting for the purpose, in view of what Mr. Awrey, the Commissioner, has already done, and is now doing.

F. A. GEMMELL.

Stratford, 1st Sept., 1892.

In reference to the above letter we heartily endorse our worthy President's remarks in regard to giving our annual meetings more publicity; and we would be very sorry to think that our best meetings had been held. When we remember the fact that there are now double the number of people keeping bees that there were a few years ago, why should we for one moment think the attendance at our annual meetings would be less? We must remember that these meetings will be just what we make them. The suggestion thrown out by Mr. Gemmell of advertising the meetings in local papers, and for the "Walkerton friends to favor those in attendance with some vocal and instrumental music," we think a good one. Being personally acquainted with a number of the Bruce County apiarists, we have no hesitation whatever in saying that no pains will be spared to enable all who visit Walkerton to enjoy themselves and have a pleasant time.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Queen Clipping.

IS IT ADVISABLE TO CLIP THE QUEEN'S WING?

HERE is quite a difference of opinion among bee-keepers as to the advisability of clipping the queen's wing. Although I have practised clipping for some years, yet this season I sometimes (when I did not find her on the issuing of the swarm), had doubts whether it was best. In our experience, when a swarm issues the queen is found at the entrance, or near it. There is generally some one on the look out and she is caged, while the bees will usually cluster near on a bush or tree. The queen is put with or near them, if within reach, till they settle when they are hived and placed where wanted, and all is satisfactory. But they don't always act that way; sometimes they will commence to go back to the old stand instead of clustering, and, if a hive is ready to put in place of the old one, they will hive themselves and make a good colony. Some bee-keepers report that clipped queens are more likely to be superseded than if not clipped. I find that if no one attends to them at swarming time, and they go back after one or two attempts, and find the queen there, they are apt to supersede her; but the loss of a queen at the commencement of the honey harvest is small compared with the risk of losing the swarm as well. I have not found, however, that clipped queens are disliked by the bees, or that, if properly done, it impairs them in any way. I have clipped them in all sorts of ways. Sometimes, when they are walking on the comb, it may be done, and they will scarcely know it. My wife has a way of holding them by the shoulders with the finger and thumb of the left hand, and with a sharp pair of scissors clip off part of one wing; but as my fingers are large or I am afraid of pinching them too much, my way is to pick up the queen by the wings with the right hand, catch her by the feet with the left, and then clip off lengthwise part of one wing and then let her go. With a little practice it does not take more than a minute of time, and there is less risk of hurting them than by any other way I know of. Lately I had all doubts settled about the advisability of clipping by a swarm with a young queen not clipped going to parts unknown without first clustering, and another swarm that clustered on a very high branch of a tree that was very difficult to get at; and this coming after so being used to clipped queens, when one could hive a dozen or more swarms a day without risk or discomfort, made me resolve that I would clip all queens in future without hesitation as soon as they proved themselves good layers.

R. H. SMITH.