



APRIL.

OFFICERS OF THE ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

President, Mr. S. Cornell, Lindsay; 1st Vice-President, J. B. Hall, Woodstock; 2nd Vice-President, Dr. Thom. Stroutville; Secretary Treasurer, Mr. Jacob Spence, Toronto.

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Communications on the business of the association, and beekeepers' department of the CANADIAN FARMER to be addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer, 21 Parliament St., Toronto.

EXTRACTING AND CURING HONEY

During the past thirteen years we have extracted honey largely each season, taking as much as sixteen tons in a single season.

We have operated under almost every variety of conditions.

During this time we have noticed the many inquiries, which have been made through our journals, bearing upon the subject of extracting honey. It is a growing interest, second to none in our pursuit.

One of the most important points in this connection, is the best time to extract. Indeed to those who extract largely, it is a question all important. Let us notice some of the advantages of the different methods.

We shall claim, first, that as regards the quality of honey, there is no difference as to the time when it is extracted. It may be cured equally well after as before. The only necessity is that it be cured.

The advantages of extracting honey as soon as it is gathered are these. When it is being gathered rapidly, if it is extracted at once, room is offered for the queen to deposit her eggs, and the operation seems to stimulate brooding. The large force of bees thus secured is of great importance in sections where the seasons are long, or where full honey is abundant.

When extracted as soon as gathered the bees are saved the labor of curing the honey and of capping the cells, and the operator is saved the labor of uncapping the cells but the great advantage in removing it from the combs as fast as filled, so that the bees may be fully occupied in bringing in honey while the yield continues. To us who are in sections where the flow of honey is of limited duration this is of extreme importance.

When the honey is first gathered, it is much more easily thrown from the combs, and it is much more agreeable to operate when the bees are busily at work.

The bearing this subject of properly evaporated honey has upon holding honey from one season to another, is worth our attention.

A thorough investigation of this subject by bee keepers generally, will prove to be one of extreme importance.—*Bee Magazine.*

NOTES ON BEE CULTURE.

May again with its bud and bloom, and to the bee keeper, the pleasant hum of his honey gatherers has arrived. April was a cold, chilly, muggy month, so that at this date, though there is some sealed drone brood and perhaps a few drones in the hives, there is scarcely more brood than there was in the last of March. Bloom is in profusion on

fruit trees, and the first white clover heads are to be seen, but nectar seems to be scarce, for one can hardly open hives without attracting robbers. This must soon change and the prospect is flattering.

I was surprised to find not a single queen missing in so many stocks, and since the bees were set out, No. 5 lost a queen, received from A. G. Hill, last year, and which promised, when set on summer stand, this spring, to be unusually prolific. This thing has occurred, in a few cases, every spring, and I am at a loss to account for it, the losses are, almost invariably, just where you would least expect them.

Crowded with work and inconveniently situated I did not give my bees the close attention usually bestowed upon them in the early spring, so that some of the bees that died in the cells were not removed as soon as they should have been, and consequently the bees have tried to get rid of them by cutting the cells away, but now if a single dead bee is in a comb the queen has, without a single exception refused to lay in that comb. After trying various ways I have to depend mostly upon a darning or crochet needle, to remove these dead bees. Pass the needle through the side of the next cell, and slip the bee out. Where combs are not in use most of them can be jarred out, after they have dried and shrunken some, by turning the comb on one side and tapping the top bar upon something; but this often fails, and if one gets a little too earnest, in tapping, a nice new comb is broken sometimes.

But what it was most desired to call attention to, in speaking of these dead bees in combs, was, that this was overlooked by Messrs. Hill and Doolittle, in their discussion of box and moveable frame hives. It is not a matter of any importance to a box hive man, as he knows nothing of it, and "where ignorance is bliss it is folly to be wise," but to any one who has specially noticed the labor and delay put upon a colony by the presence of its dead members in the cells, it is an argument in favor of frames that cannot be offset. We may pipe a queen out of the hive but you can't get dead bees out of the cells unless you first lift the combs out of the hives.

I have been anxiously watching for the germination of the seeds of several varieties of scrophularia, sent me by Dr. Tinker, but as yet have seen nothing green. Seeds of the Golden Honey Plant, self-sown last year are coming thickly. Figwort sown four years ago shows a few fine plants, but self-sown seed, from plants that were cultivated with early corn, last season almost cover the ground with green.

Nature has a purpose in everything she does, and the fact that figwort secretes nectar continuously, while in bloom proves the need of the constant presence of insects to fertilize its seeds hence this plant, growing where it has the full benefit of the sun, and thousands of bees, it has had a far greater number of seeds germinate than if it had grown in the shade, or away from the hives. My efforts to propagate catnip have not been as I could wish. The old roots die after ripening much seed, and the young plants seem to choke each other out for a year or two. Still considerable quantities will come up in unlooked for places.

This is May with its cyclones and tornadoes, and many of my neighbors are in their storm-pits and cellars, as I write for the deep boom of the thunder shakes windows and doors, while the air smells close and oppressive.—*B. K. Guide.*

Holloway's Corn Cure destroys all kinds of corns and warts, root and branch.

ABOUT BEE-MOTHS.

BY MRS. G. HARRISON, PERDUE COUNTY, ILL.

A farmer who keeps a few bees, asked me if my bees are troubled with moth-worms. He said that he saw bees swarm out on account of them, and he split open the gum and found a peck of worms. It is well to be reminded of the existence of these enemies once and a while, lest we forget they exist.

Comb is valuable, for while the bees are building a pound of it, they could gather twenty pounds of honey, and it ought not to be uncared for in hives where the bees have died, to be consumed by the larvae of the bee-moth. These larvae are great cowards and when the combs are lifted out of the hive, poke out their heads and may be destroyed surely and quickly by exposing them to the fumes of burning sulphur.

The moth is of the color of old wood, and the wings cross one another, turning up like the tail of a fowl. It may be seen lurking around hives in the evening, trying to gain admittance. Where fowls have the run of an apiary they catch many of these moths on the wing. Persons speak of moths running out bees! It would be as proper to say that weeds run out corn. If from any cause, such as queenlessness, a colony becomes extinct, or nearly so, the moth enters and takes possession, and it is a mistaken idea to attribute the destruction of the bees to the moths.

Comb, in frames, can be kept over the summer free from the depredations of the larvae of the bee-moth if they are suspended in the light and air, and are three or four feet apart. Moths love darkness and uncleanness, and deposit their eggs in cracks and crevices about hives, where bees cannot gain access to them. Do not permit refuse comb to lie around the apiary or bee-house. I have put frames of comb containing their larvae into a hive of Italian bees, and in half an hour could see the bees bringing them out. There is no need of any other moth-trap, for they are always baited and set. A handful of Italians will defend a hive.

THAT PRIZE LIST.

The apiary product prize list, published in our issue of a couple of weeks ago, should have been headed, "Industrial Exhibition Toronto—The Apiary Prize List." The error was simply an omission of those lines, and parties who intend exhibiting at the exhibition, will get fullest information from the manager and secretary, H. J. Hill, Jacob Spence, Esq. Our bee editor at Toronto will render all the assistance to intending exhibitors he possibly can.

BEE NOTES FOR JULY.

MAKING HONEY VINEGAR.—The "cappings" shaved off in the preparation of honey for extracting, are always allowed to drain. But even when thoroughly drained, considerable honey still adheres to them, and it is an excellent plan to have a keg or a barrel of water in which to wash them, and to allow the water to ferment and become vinegar. Water which has been used to rinse out any utensil that has contained honey, can be thrown into the barrel. The scum that arises upon the surface of the sweetened water should be skimmed off.

MAKING BEESWAX.—The "cappings" which accumulate in the extraction of honey, and all odds and ends of comb, should be carefully saved, but in warm weather it is well to render them into wax

as soon as possible; otherwise they are liable to become infested with the bee moth's larva. What is called a Swiss wax extractor is a convenient utensil for rendering wax. It is simply a "basket" of perforated zinc, inside a "steamer" which is set over a kettle of boiling water. The refuse comb is placed in the basket, and the steam rises and melts the wax, which is caught by a false bottom in the steamer, and runs out through a spout in the side. When there is not much wax to render, the cappings of combs can be put into a tin sieve, the sieve covered, and then set over a pan of boiling water. The steam will melt the wax, which will run down and rest upon the water in the pan. The pan and its contents can be set aside until cold, when the wax will be found formed into a cake. Another method is to put the combs into a cloth sack, and the latter into a wash-boiler—the sack being held at the bottom of the boiler by means of a stick, the upper end of which presses against another stick, lying across the top of the boiler, and tied to its handles. When the wax is melted, the boiler is set aside until the wax is cool enough to be removed. Wax can be cleaned from utensils, by using a cloth saturated with kerosene oil.

FUEL FOR SMOKERS.—Many substances have been recommended as fuel for smokers, but nothing has given the writer more satisfaction than what is sometimes called "punk," a peculiar kind of dry rot. That from the maple tree is best.

ANTS.—To circumvent the little ants that sometimes prove themselves such nuisances by getting into honey, place it upon a table or platform, the supports of which rest in dishes partly filled with kerosene oil. A muslin cover with a rubber cord in a hem around its edge, will exclude dust and insects from a vessel holding honey.

A BEE STING REMEDY.—Veteran beekeepers rarely trouble themselves with bee sting remedies, but amateurs, and those in whom the flesh swells when stung near the eyes, often wish for something that will reduce the swelling and pain. The best remedy known to the writer is a tincture of Plantain, made by pouring alcohol over the freshly gathered leaves, and allowing it to remain until it turns black, when it is poured off and bottled. If this remedy is applied immediately after the wound is given, the swelling and pain will be scarcely perceptible. If the person is severely stung a few drops of the tincture can be taken internally.—*W. Z. HUTCHINSON in American Agriculturist.*

EARLY SWARMS AND FIRST COMB HONEY FOR 1884.

EDITOR, CANADIAN FARMER.—Our first swarm came off May 23rd, two days before apple blossoms opened in this vicinity, and our bees have continued swarming on almost every favorable day since then. We took our first finished sections off today (June 9th), we got ten pounds from one colony and they have considerably more partly capped; the sections we took off were well filled and a light color; they were put in the hive May 17th and only had "comb foundation starters" in them. **GRAINGER & DUKE, Deer Park, Toronto.**

An exchange speaks of a "fatal murder." The fiend who would commit a fatal murder would do worse. He would kill a man dead.