

the height of the season (about the middle of January), and for some time maintained a record of 60 lbs. a week. Another hive, which contained nine frames—each 17 in. by 8½ in.—gave 48 lbs. in the first eight days, and its total had reached 1 cwt. in three weeks. Notwithstanding the constant depletion of the combs, the bees still found leisure to swarm, and by natural increase the number of hives grew from 27 at the opening of the season to 109 in January—*From the Adelaide Observer.*

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.
AN OFFICIAL ORGAN.

THE question of an official organ for the bee-keepers of Ontario, or had we better say the Dominion of Canada, is upon us.

Now, as bee-keepers, we are all interested in the matter, and should we not consider the subject well and act wisely in making our choice. The *Rural Canadian* has done its duty I believe to the entire satisfaction of all bee-keepers, but then why should we make apiculture odious by thrusting it into everybody's face whether they like it or not. I have heard some farmers object strongly and even threaten to stop their paper because there is so much "bee-trash" in it—a thing they had no interest in, but must say I consider the *Rural Canadian* a most excellent agricultural paper, and richly deserves the support of every farmer in the country. With regard to the American bee-papers, they are all good, but then we have a paper of our own so I do not think we can do better than select the C.B.J. I believe in the specialist and now that we have a paper devoted specially to bees and honey let us encourage it. I doubt if anyone can give us a real good weekly for less than one dollar a year. As a private individual I would suggest that for one dollar sent the Secretary of the Ontario Bee-Keepers Association that he send them a ticket of membership for one year and the C. B. J. for half year or for \$1.50 membership one year and the C. B. J. for one year. Officers of bee-keepers associations often wish to communicate with the fraternity generally and if all will agree to take the same paper we know just how to reach them.

S. T. PETTIT.

Belmont, Ont., Sept. 25.

The subject of an "Official Organ" is for us a rather delicate one, inasmuch as it might be said, that we were "blowing our own trumpet" were we to say much about it. When the matter was up

for discussion during the last session of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Convention at Toronto last month, we were asked to state the views we held on the subject and we did so, to this effect: We did not question the advisability of having an "Organ" but we could hardly see our own way clear to becoming that organ under the same conditions as previous publications had accepted the honor. Then another difficulty stared the project in the face, and that was that nearly every member of the Association was *already* a subscriber to the JOURNAL, and this would also be the objection which would meet Friend Pettit's kind suggestion. Would it be better to dispense with the "Official Organ" altogether and reduce the membership fee to 50c. per annum, or allow it to remain at \$1.00, as now, and use the funds of the Society in some other channel which would be equally profitable. We should like to have expressions of opinion in this matters from Friends McKnight, Pringle, Corneil, Campbell, Thom, etc., as all these gentlemen have been connected with the Association from its inception.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.
BEE STINGS.

IS the sting of bees more poisonous at some seasons (notably this month) than others?

The reason I ask the question is that yesterday I opened a strong hive of hybrids to show my wife the queen, which is an extra good one compared with the rest I have. I had raised one frame and Mrs. B. was wielding the smoker to keep those in the hive quiet, when E! E! down went the smoker, and she hastily beat a retreat trying frantically to shake a bee from her sleeve. That one did not sting but a couple of others seemed interested in the escape of their comrade and did. She came at once to the house and applied ammonia, which she had done on several previous occasions, this was followed in about five minutes by a furious itching all over the body and limbs even to the head and soles of the feet, in five minutes more the itching gave place to a burning sensation and the skin became blotched with scarlet varying to purple with white spots the size of split peas set as closely together as it was possible for them to be, just as though she had had her person stung with nettles. This was followed by vomiting and then by violent nervous contrac-