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The Canadian Bee Journal

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JAS. J. HURLEY, EDITOR, BRANTFORD, ONTARIO, CANADA

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Whole No. 535

From reports as gleaned from bee journals in the United States it would appear that Canada has fared much better in the matter of a good honey crop. Little or no honey dew has been reported in Canada, while our friends to the south of the international line have suffered greatly. Of the vagaries of the weather conditions there is no fortelling. It may be our turn next year. We believe, however, that the northern part of the continent yields the best average.

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Mr. Robert B. Ross, jr., of Montreal, called upon us recently and gave us one of the most pleasant half hours we have experienced for some time. Mr. Ross is young, handsome and intelligent, and has behind him an experience of some twenty years in bee-keeping. He is very enthusiastic and is possessed of many good ideas that were new to us. We hope to have the pleasure of receiving something from Mr. Ross in the near future for our C. B. J. readers. Speaking of feeders, he startled us with the simplicity by which he turns an ordinary 10 pound honey pail into a feeder, and then uses the pail for the purpose for which it was intended. By punching a few holes outward through the cover, filling the pail and inverting it on the frames—presto! there you are with a good 10 pound feeder—at the expense only of the slip-top cover!

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The International Association of Bee-Keepers will hold its annual convention in Sioux City, Iowa, on September 22 and 25. The point is easily reached from the north, and there ought to be a good attendance from Canada.

In a private letter from Mr. Byer we are informed that we placed him in a false position last month, when referring to a private letter received from him in reference to the so-called black brood. When he referred to Mr. Timbers' experience as having cured it by changing the queen, he did not mean the vile black brood that is now raging in the east, but the common form of dead brood. It appears that this is the point wherein we misunderstood him. Mr. Timbers nor himself has ever had black brood, though Mr. Byer is somewhat nervous at its rapid spread. This black brood, he is positive, is a disease, and many times worse than foul brood, and is also positive that the Alexander plan of changing queens will not be effective in making a cure. It appears on reading his letter again that the point he was making was that the common dead brood difficulty is not always the result of starved brood, but some mysterious impotence existing in the queen or the eggs she lays—hence his reference to Mr. Timbers' experience of changing the queen. We hope that Mr. Byer will write fully on this matter when he gets time, so that we may profit by his season's experience in inspection work. We would be sorry to say anything that would place Mr. Byer in a position of being misunderstood. In another column we give his recently expressed opinion in the September American Bee Journal.

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From what we can gather there will be a very fair crop of buckwheat honey to mark the close of the season of 1909.