

Sydenham river, which runs through the village, and is navigable some little distance further inland, has floated away in barges and propellers pretty much all the valuable timber of the region, basswood included. There are few parts of the country where commerce has made a cleaner sweep of the woods and forests than here. A few miles back from the river, there is abundance of basswood, and far more white clover, than in the vicinage of Dresden. It is therefore Mr. Piggott's intention to move his bees at an early day, to "fresh fields and pastures new."

Mr. Piggott's bees were in fine condition. They had wintered well, on their summer stands, in chaff-packed hives, and were teeming with surplus workers, ready for swarming out, or getting in the honey harvest. The season is fully two weeks earlier than in my neighborhood, and already swarms had begun to issue. One of Mr. P.'s neighbors had a large swarm come off May 7th. Quite a number of farmers in the region of country around Dresden keep bees in a small way, and a few parties have gone into the business as a specialty. Prominent among these are a couple of lady bee-keepers. One of these, a Miss Simpson, has nearly 100 colonies, and raised last season 13,500 pounds of honey. The other, Mrs. Cameron, who lives in or near the village of Valetta, wintered 126 stocks successfully during the past winter, and this spring has sold upwards of fifty stocks to less fortunate beekeepers and new beginners; let about fifty hives on shares, and reserved fourteen stocks to build up her home apiary with. Some of the bee-keeping specialists have had a bad winter. One of them who went into winter quarters with eighty colonies, lost all but five or six. They were in single-walled hives, which, in our severe climate, furnish inadequate protection. Another, out of thirty, had only one left. Though the winter is on the whole, milder in this than in many other parts of Canada, it is liable to great and sudden changes of temperature, which are harder on bees than steady cold weather.

Mr. Piggott is an intelligent bee-keeper, and is, to a large extent, self-taught. His plan of chaff-packing is in some respects peculiar, and I wish he would describe it in the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL for the benefit of others. I will say the same of a feeder, which, amid the multiplicity of such devices, has some novel features about it, worthy of attention. Mr. Piggott has tried various races of bees, but owing to the proximity of native bees in other apiaries and in the woods around him, most of his stocks are more or less hybridized, but they are a fine sample of large, energetic, business bees, and in a good honey section, would certainly

ly give an excellent account of themselves. One cannot visit such an apiary, without being impressed with the importance of locality, as a prime factor in successful bee-keeping. Here, apparently, you have everything first-class, except the field for honey-gathering.

WM. F. CLARKE.

Guelph, June 4th, 1887.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

DR. MILLER ONCE MORE.

THE worthy doctor is like an Italian bee, usually very amiable, but when roused, wonderfully persistent. On page 194,

C. B. J., he says he has *never* advocated "priority of location." I think I have proved conclusively that he did at one time advocate it, without a doubt. He refers me to page 781, *Gleanings*, for October 1, 1886, and quotes a brief extract. I find in that article the following sentence preceding the one he has quoted:—"It is of practical importance, if my position is correct, to be able to invest time and money in this business, and have some feeling of security that there is some permanence about it; that no mere whim of some envious neighbor may drive me out of the business next year; that after making investment in buildings and fixtures, and perhaps special pasturage, I may feel secure that no one else may be able, by overstocking, to drive me from the field." The "envious neighbor" is evidently a new-comer, who, seeing the Dr.'s success, wishes to divide with him. A question of fact has been raised. Has the Dr. advocated priority of location, or has he not? I have marshalled the evidence, that he has, and that his position is untenable without it. He is the chief witness against himself, and had better confess judgment. If he does not, the case must go to the bee-keeping public, for their verdict.

WM. F. CLARKE.

Guelph, June 4th, 1887.

THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

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