



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

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EDITORIAL.

THE President of the O.B.K.A. writes to the effect that Mr. Howard, who was furnishing queens to the members of the O.B.K.A., has mailed out 145 queens at time of expiration of contract and asking a little more time for the balance. This time, we believe, was readily granted by the President, and we think that, under the circumstances, Mr. Howard has done wonders.

The queens which Mr. Howard was to furnish to members of the O.B.K.A., which were due to us, came along before the date of expiry of his contract for filling orders. The queens which we received were nice, large, healthy-looking queens with which we are pleased. We have letters from several of our subscribers, who are also members of the O.B.K.A., who speak in praise of the queens which they received. We hope that Mr. Howard has been able to furnish all the queens as satisfactorily as our own. We are well satisfied that he has not made much profit out of his contract, and that he has carried it out to the letter.

The following paragraph we clip from the *Rural Canadian* with reference to the season:—Thus far the honey yield for the season has been far below the average for this time of year. The

month of June is the best of all the months of the year, for in it the sage bloom is at its best. This season the sage bloom was about closed out on the 20th of June in most places in Southern California, and the sumac bloom opened with quite a flow of honey, at once attracting most of the bees. Those who have secured a good quality of either comb or extracted honey from sage ought to hold for a good price, as the quantity is limited.

OUR OWN APIARY.

DO MARTINS EAT BEES.

SOME years since our home bee yard was the best of all that we had in which to rear and fertilize queens, but for the last two or three years it has been getting gradually poorer until the present, when we have, as reported in late numbers of the *BEE JOURNAL*, lost probably 75 per cent. of the queens, which went out to mate. We were unable until a day or two ago to get any satisfactory reason for the loss. The foreman of the apiary had almost given up the rearing of queens here for a bad job and was giving his attention to the outside yards where from 75 to 80 per cent. of the queens were fertilized. Yesterday we were putting up a lot of queens and our attention was drawn to the fact that quite a number of martins were flying about the yard. The sky was cloudy and the bees could be seen