

OUR OWN APIARY.

SHIPPING BEES LONG DISTANCES.

WE promised to report how the fifty colonies of bees which we sent to Manitoba arrived at their destination. From the young man who went in charge of them we have a private letter from which we extract the following:—

"The bees and myself arrived at our destination in good shape on Saturday about 12 o'clock. I rode in the express car the entire trip from Allandale and had every chance of attending the bees. In fact had they not had good care I fear they would have suffered. I found it necessary to move them about, putting the top rows down to the bottom and *vice versa* to keep them cool. At the point of transfer they would have been handled very roughly had I not been present, and armed with authority. I think so far as I have seen of this country yet, that it is going to be a splendid place for bees. The wild rose and wild pea are just starting to bloom, also a shrub called woodbine, while raspberries and strawberries cover the whole country like a perfect sheet. My apiary is situate in a small bluff of poplars, none of which are thicker than your wrist nor more than 10 feet high. I released the bees about 2 o'clock on Saturday and at 6 in the evening they were bringing in pollen from the oak. There was not, I think, more than one quart of dead bees in the whole shipment. We are having very hot weather here, about 96 degrees in the shade.

Stonewall, June 19th, 1888.

N. B. One swarm to-day, June 30.

The bees left here at 8 o'clock on the evening of the 13th of June, and arrived at their destination at 12 o'clock on the 16th, thus being on the road only sixty-four hours. This we consider extremely rapid transit and is indeed creditable to the Dominion Express Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is not very often that colonies will swarm so soon after a long journey and we feel glad to think that we sent colonies which give such results.

QUEEN REARING DIFFICULT.

Our foreman reports considerable difficulty in rearing queens this season. The first portion of the work was hin-

dered by the cold backward weather; now the trouble is not in getting the virgin queens, but in having them mated afterwards. Out of the hundreds of young queens which we have reared not more than 25 or 30 per cent. of them have been successfully mated. Mr. Bray seems to have the idea that the English sparrows with which this country is troubled are to a great extent the cause. Perhaps the great number of trees which are located in and around our home apiary, where the most of this work is done, has something to do with it. However, we are on the lookout for further developments.

The Inventor of the Honey Extractor.

WE do not know that we have ever related to readers of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL how the invention of the honey extractor came about, and it will perhaps be interesting to them to read a short account of it. From the June number of *L'Apicoltere* is gleaned the fact that Major von Hruschka, the inventor, died May 11th, and the *American Bee Journal* in relating the circumstances says: "Major Hruschka was a retired Austrian officer, and the invention of the honey extractor occurred in this way: His apiary was in Italy, and one day when the major, who was a most observing and critical bee-keeper, was in his apiary, his little boy came there to him. The boy had a small tin pail tied to a string, which he was swinging, boy-like, around and around in a circle, holding the end of the string in his hand.

The indulgent father gave the youth a small piece of comb filled with honey, putting it into the little pail. The boy, after awhile, began to swing the pail again as before, with the honey in it. A few moments after, he became tired of that amusement and put the pail down to talk to his father, who took it up and, by chance, noticed that the honey had left the comb and settled down into the pail, leaving the comb perfectly clean that had been on the outside of the circle when the boy was swinging it around. The major wondered at the circumstance, and, turning the comb over, bade the boy swing it again; when, to his great astonishment, the