

P. S. Re bees, as the lawyers would say, I placed 112 stocks in the cellar yesterday, after they had a good flight on the 21st., and 22nd., during which they discharged copiously a watery fluid. On referring to my diary I find that they were placed away on the 28th. last year, and the year previous.

We agree with Dr. Thom and Vice-President Pringle that Brother Clarke act as chairman since it seems that the Vice-President will possibly not be able to be present. While we would all desire to see Mr. Pringle present and more so because many of us have never met him, still we must submit to the inevitable if it be not possible for him to be with us. We feel that we voice the sentiments of the entire association when we ask our first Vice-President to use every endeavor to be with us on that occasion and we are satisfied that he will do so.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

BEES LIVING WITHOUT FOOD.

I NOTICE in C. B. J., Nov. 17th, on page 673, Mr. Mitchell, of Molesworth, states that he had bees live nine days without food.

You ask the question, "Has anyone else heard of the equal of this?" My answer is yes. About the middle of July I had a queenless colony in which I reared a young queen, she was very large but failed to get fertilised, and turned out to be a drone layer. The first week of October I shook those bees into the empty hive, removing combs to the honey house. I put the cover on the hive and left them to die. Just ten days after, I lifted the cover to see the dead bees. To my surprise they were living and clustered on the cover, having gathered nothing after the combs were removed. I then fed about two pounds of honey, in a few days they had it all licked up. I then lifted the cover to see what they had done with it. I found they had two or three combs built about the size of my hand. This proves that old bees can build comb, as there was no young hatched after the first date mentioned above. I am now wintering them in the cellar, just giving them enough food to keep them alive, to see if such old bees will winter. Will report in spring, if you wish.

JACOB ALPAUGH.

St. Thomas, Nov. 19th.

We shall be glad to have your report of what becomes of this colony by spring. Should they come through all right, the fact that bees do not die particularly from *old age* will be again

demonstrated. And now, are there any more?

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

WHAT ARE THE BEES DOING ON THE ALIGHTING BOARD.

EVIDENTLY SIPPING UP THE DEW.

D OUBTLESS you have noticed worker bees collected on the alighting-board or front of the hive moving their bodies backward and forward as though they were busy polishing their mandibles on the wood. Can you give any clue to the cause of their thus acting, or the purpose to be served by these movements.—Ky."

The above is a copy of Query No. 331 as it appeared in No. 44, (Nov. 3), of the *A. B. J.* and was replied to by eight prominent bee-keepers none of whom gave a satisfactory explanation of the peculiar actions mentioned in the query.—Dr. J. P. H. Brown thinks "they are planing their alighting boards"—Dadant & Son say "it looks as though they were cleaning the floor"—Dr. Tinker thinks they are certainly idlers, while Mr. G. M. Doolittle pertinently remarks, "I should like a correct reply to that question myself."

Well, I have watched this peculiar action with considerable interest for those *little* things do interest me, and about one year ago I solved the question to at least *my* satisfaction. You will notice that bees invariably act as above described when considerable moisture is in the air—on damp days when they are not storing honey—in the evening after they have struck work and sometimes in the early morning. Well I believe it is the *water* they are after. This moisture collects on the alighting board or falls in the form of dew in particles too minute to be observed by the human eye. Bees must have water (at that time of year) and they often sip it up just as fast as it collects. In other words, they know how to appreciate a good thing when they have it—a supply of pure water right at their door. Am I not right?

J. F. DUNN.

Ridgeway, Ont.

The junior editor of this JOURNAL has never had this come under his observation. Possibly however, Mr. Jones may be able to put forward a theory—certainly your explanation seems quite plausible. This point could be finally decided by a little investigation of some of our bee-naturalists—Prof. Cook, Prof. McLain, or Ernest Root,—with the aid of a microscope.