## THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

any one locality may or may not be fairly constant, as a good deal will depend on the lay of the country and the direction of the prevailing winds. In the South Island of New Zealand the air is comparatively dry, and I have known cases where thin honey has been extracted and successfully ripened in tanks. In the North Island, however, the conditions are very humid, particularly in Taranaki and Auckland provinces, on the west and northern coasts respectively.

The evaporation of the surplus moisture of an unripened honey will take place if the humidity of the air is low enough to allow it to absorb more moisture. On the other hand, honey will readily absorb moisture from an overladen atmosphere. Each beekeeper can test the humidity in his own district by keeping a jar of already well-ripened honey exposed to the air, and watching the surface become thin and watery. If a hydrometer is used to test the specific gravity the honey should be well stirred before testing. The beekeeper can then judge for himself as to whether it is safe for him to expose his heney to the air at all. In the humid climate we have in Taranaki and Auckland provinces I would advise that nothing but wellsealed honey be extracted, and that it be put in air-tight vessels the same day. If it is necessary to store it in a tank, the top should be close fitting. For the reason given in the second paragraph of this article, I would not advise any one to extract any but fully or three parts sealed combs if he wishes to do justice to his honey and his customers. Honey that is unsealed at the end of the season, and that has been on the hives for some time is ripe enough to extract.

Mr. Hopkins says he successfully repened a large crop in tanks in 1883; but I think the conditions must have been exceptional for that locality for that year, or else it was an exceptional locality in the Auckland province. In a government bulletin he has advocated the artificial process of ripening, and num bers of beekeepers have taken it up. The result has been that a lot of soured and fermented honey has gone on the market The use of the hydrometer will not correct the fault of excessive humidity in the air. The ripest how " (and it is very seldom that all green homey is being extracted) settles in the bottom of the tank; and when a sample is drawn out to be tested with the hydrometer it gives a fairly high specific gravity. Even if the hydrometer is put into the tank, it does not give a proper test, as the thin watery honey is in a layer at the top. It is the last to be drawn off and the first to ferment. Many beekeepers have not bothered to use the hydrometer, thinking it quite sufficient to leave the honey in the tank a week or two, often regardless of the condition it was in when extracted. It is this ignorance of the conditions governing the case that has caused a great deal of the harm done in this country by Mr. Hopkins' advocacy of the artificial method.

In 1910 I acted as judge at the Warkato show (Auckland), and the Hawera show, (Taranaik). At the former show I found several entries fermented. The same occurred at the Taranaki show; and out of 17 entries in the granulated class only four were properly ripened. I had to advise the beekeepers to discontinue the artificial method. The conference of beekeepers' associations in 1910 protested against the method being advised in Bulletin No. 18. In the Aucklard saleroooms I have seen honey running out of the tins.

It is possible to ripen honey artificially where the conditions are favorable; but it is questionable whether there is any advantage gained. The late .. W. Alexander was in a favorable locality, and kept 700 colonies in one apiary. He was thus able to keep the extractor going as fast as the new honey came in, and it saved the necessity of providing extra supers. The beckeeper with one apiary

## October, 1911

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can get along of supers, and combs. The l would prefer t and attend n supers while th extracting is one job is mad ing the honeyin abundance. able to use it The work of e all night, and whether the an creased at all honey.

Salt is a sub sorbs moisture, a where salt becon the same. I hav sections; but I plan to prevent would be to place in the room whe would keep the Devauchelles B

-From Glea

## ST. JOHN'S E WI

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Best display of honey, 50 Ibs.--1, Asbell; 3, W. Tod Best display of 1 100 Ibs.--1, W. G. 3, G. Todd.

Best Clover hon -1, W. G. Asbell; Todd.

Best Buckwheat I -1, Anna Peters;

Best display of honey, 20 Ibs.-1, Asbell.

Best display of lic honey, 20 lbs.-1, V Todd.

Largest samples

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