

BEE

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(last month)

bees here num-
bered or eight, a
population of 500.
In the way they
use proper frame-
work not two together
could be gained by
as long as those
I, use the same

evolution of those
; they can be
enter very quick-
ly seem to suit the

ends of a paraffin
and thoroughly in
smell, are taken
inches and four of
these. The 2-inch
the top of the
they protrude
1/2-inch laths are
lining sides of the
e. Then the re-
d boards, or as
be level with the
to an inch below
walls with an air
of one wall be-
ness of 1 1/4 inches.
e case remain as
enough anyhow.
are made to fit.
thirteen frames,
the short sides
be made on one
one of the long
bee-keeper best
on three stout
put into tins of
a little paraffin
3. Carbolic acid
dry up, and if
e pests make

bridge with their bodies and walk over.

The frames are made to suit the box, an extractor (Cowan geared) and the hive at the same time. They are only 8 1/2 inches deep, thus leaving quite an inch between them and the floor-board. This facilitates access to the farther frames for the bees, and also gives ventilation; dampness need not be feared in this dry climate. Hitherto, the bees have never built under the frames, but should they do so, another layer of boards will prevent it.

The top bar is 1 1/4 inches broad, and has near either end, but at opposite sides, broad-headed tacks protruding 3-16 inch, thus making a cover of wood for the colony, with just enough space to let the bees go into the super and keep the queen down, doing away with the necessity and inconvenience of an excluder.

The roof has very broad eaves to protect the hive from the sun, and the entrance from rain. It is covered with calico, and then the whole hive is painted white to reflect as much of the heat as possible, except the alighting-board and the edges of the box, which are green. My friends all consider the hives a great ornament to my place.

The broad tops of the frames give the bees practically a wood cover, which is the natural thing for them, and also there is less quilt to propolise or bite through, as they sometimes do. They do not seem to appreciate the porosity of the quilts, otherwise they would not attempt to make them air-tight with propolis.

The quilts I use are made of waste cotton-cloth of any kind, and cost practically nothing; preferably sample pieces of native blankets sewn together for the purpose. The super takes the same frames as the body-box, and is of an obvious design.

The whole hive, including three coats of paint, carpenter's wages, and supers, does not cost over 10s., and much less

when the same native carpenter makes a number of them instead of one.

In Nyasaland the bees work practically the whole year round. The vegetation and the life of the bees is, of course, dependent on the seasons, which are somewhat erratic in their dates of beginning and ending, and are by no means of equal length. It is usual to distinguish only the rainy season and the dry season, but for our purpose we had better distinguish four:

1. The rainy season, beginning between late February and early January, and ending in April or May.
2. The cold season follows the former, and lasts till July or August.
3. The warm season follows the former and ends in October.
4. The hot season follows the former, and lasts to the beginning of the rainy season.

BRIEF REPORT OF THE O.B.K.A. CONVENTION

The Ontario Bee-keepers' Association held its thirty-third annual convention in its old quarters in Toronto on Nov. 13th to 15th. That a large attendance was expected was evinced by the early removal from the hall to adjacent ante-rooms of several desks, to make room for more chairs. The attendance is increasing every year.

There was to be seen a number of faces of those who have attended these meetings since the inception of the society, though the number grows annually less. This year we miss a once familiar face, that of Mr. F. J. Switzer, and as we realize that it is to be for aye, we are glad to remember how pleasant his fellowship with us had always been.

There are to be seen, however, many young men eager to learn of the ways and wiles of the honey-bee and of the profits that might accrue to them through a closer acquaintance with her.