



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

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EDITORIAL.

THE initial number of the *Queen-Breeders' Journal* is before us. It is a well printed, snappily written paper devoted to the "improvement of queens," the best methods of rearing, etc. The specialists it seeks to reach are certainly not sufficiently numerous to support what we might term a trade journal, but bee-keepers generally will be interested in its pages, and if the standard of number one is maintained it will have the success we wish it.

Mr. A. I. Root is "doing" California, visiting the bee-keepers there and having an enjoyable time. His very readable letters are published in *Gleanings*.

We have just been favored with a visit from our friend Mr. W. L. Wilson, of Elmvale. Mr. Wilson lives about half way in a northerly line between Beeton and our friend Schulz, who had such an immense yield of honey. He has not been as successful, but has had a yield of about 25 lbs. per colony, and we gleaned the following facts from him. That he went into winter quarters with 80 colonies, and when the season opened for honey gathering he only had about 40 left. Three or four died during winter and the balance was lost principally by spring dwindling. He was very favorably situated for the past two seasons

on account of them being so very dry, as a small river almost encircles his apiary and the ground for miles around is principally low and moist. Some alsike on very low land yielded honey very liberally. He remarked the great difference in the basswood. One tree that stood by the side of the river with the roots running to the water, the trunk leaning over the river so that the bloom could be picked from the tree from the opposite side, he observed particularly. For days, he says, this tree was literally covered with bees; sometimes it appeared as if there was a swarm just lighting on it, so thick were they flying around it. In a very wet season, no doubt, his location would not be so favorable, but what basswood honey he secured was from trees growing in very wet or moist places. Mr. Wilson has had better returns from hybrid colonies than from pure races. He says those that have given him by far the most honey were those with a dash of dark blood in them. In fact one colony which gave him over 70 lbs. of comb honey had a slight dash of Cyprian blood. It appears that whilst most of us have been too far south for the honey yield this season, our northern friends have been specially favored. Mr. Wilson has a firm belief in the perforated metal division-board to prevent the queen from occupying the full hive after the honey harvest starts, and he lets his bees seal up behind the division-board sufficient stores for winter, so that all he has to do is to remove the combs from