

The Canadian Bee Journal.

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OUR OWN APIARY.

SINCE last we wrote (on 16th inst.) our bees have been booming on the maple bloom. Strong colonies have gathered large quantities of honey from that source, which goes to prove that if colonies were always strong enough to gather largely of the maple bloom in early spring there would be quite as large, if not larger, yields from that source than from fruit bloom as the former appears to produce the most honey when the weather is favorable. It is worth while for any person to examine the bloom on our hard and soft maples, the former yields more honey and the latter more pollen. If you examine the blossoms you will observe a tiny drop of honey, and each flower seems to contain as much honey as lassa-wood. Another noticeable feature is that our bees have gathered an unusual quantity of pollen, some combs next to the brood in strong colonies being literally packed with it. Dandelion is also yielding both honey and pollen. Last Wednesday as we were driving to one of our apiaries we noticed some blossoms in the woods. On stopping the horse and going over to examine them we found them to be dog-wood just coming into bloom. This plant in some localities yields large quantities of honey. The bloom lasts nearly two weeks where the undergrowth is very dense. The students on examining the blossoms were struck with the fact that they first open on the outside of the cluster, and days after the bloom from that part has fallen the blossoms in the center begin to open out, thus maintaining a continuous bloom. The plum is in bloom therefore we expect that those who have bees to gather the honey will reap a bountiful harvest this year,

We do not remember having seen bees do as much brooding in proportion to their strength as during the past week. Such favorable weather as this must make all our brother beekeepers happy. We hope that those who have many combs will look after them and see that they are not melted into wax or allowed to mould and waste, as combs are very valuable and should never be melted unless there can be no other disposition made of them; they may be sold for much more than foundation, where the size is suitable. Wonders may be accomplished by those who have plenty of empty combs to use.

In our Home Apiary our boys are somewhat excited over an immense queen. She is looked upon as a curiosity. Her body is so long that she is unable to carry it, but drags it along the combs. Many visitors have examined her and pronounce her the largest and longest they have ever seen. She is not for sale but we shall take pleasure in showing visitors the "Jumbo" of our apiary. We will mark results from her, and see if she possesses any valuable traits over other queens. Several years ago we had a queen which we considered an unusually large one, and bred others from her. While they were very good, yet we did not observe any qualities which surpassed those possessed by other good queens, of smaller size. We have noticed one or two points about large well-developed queens, viz: they are much less liable to be balled or to become excited and rush about the combs, and are found much more easily.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SETTING OUT—SWARMING OUT, ETC.

THE winter of our discontent is past. This is the 18th of May and the fine weather has evidently come at last to stay—for a while at any rate. At last writing to the JOURNAL, which was not very long ago, winter, boisterous and blustering, was still lingering with us, apparently very: ~~with~~ to get out and be gone.