

summer use. After covering the frames in closely so that not a bee can show his head outside, I put on an upper story and fill it one-third full of forest leaves pressed lightly down, and use a cover with one and a half inch hole bored in each end for ventilation.

I give a large entrance, using a bridge about four inches wide for the bees to crawl under, which prevents the easy access of sudden draughts into the hive. The only other protection than that prescribed above, found in my apiary is a close osage hedge, six feet high on the north and west sides. With the above means of protection my bees have withstood the rigors of our eastern winters for years, with a temperature varying from 20 degrees to 20 degrees below zero, and some seasons without a purifying flight from middle of November to middle of the following February. Many mornings with the thermometer below zero in January I have found a warm current of air being forced out from the entrance, so strong as to be perceptibly felt upon the back of the hand. I know not and care not whether others may agree with me or not, I state the facts as I find them, and have no hesitation whatever in advising every beginner to follow the methods outlined above.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

"Available"—What Does It Mean?

I have read with much interest the reply of Mr. R. McKnight to my editorial remarks regarding the action of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association with reference to further affiliation. I am pleased to observe his friendly and cordial spirit; and I am sure that, on my part, while I felt that the committee were laboring under a big mistake (and I think so yet), I had only the kindest intentions toward them.

It will be necessary to refer to only two points in reply to Mr. McKnight; and one is, I am certain that the purposes of incorporation, while they may not have been stated in open conversation at Keokuk, were freely talked over in private conversation among the bee-keepers.

I know that Capt. Hetherington was not the first one to do this. Mr. Newman thoroughly explained the matter shortly after the Keokuk meeting, in an editorial—see page 6, Jan. 1, 1891, of the *American Bee Journal*.

As to what I meant by "available" matter, I will make an extract from a letter just received from Dr. Miller, which fully explains:

"DEAR ERNEST,—I do not believe McKnight looked up "available" in any common dictionary, or he would find a definition that would make your statement all right. Moreover, it

seems strange that McKnight is not familiar enough with newspaper terms to know that the word "available" is a word constantly used to mean: "For reasons satisfactory to ourselves we do not think it desirable to publish."

C. C. MILLER."

I might go on and reply to other points; but I believe that further discussion is ill-advised and unwise, as I have already made myself sufficiently plain in my original remarks on the subject. I believe that, if we cannot agree, the best thing for us to do is to pleasantly agree to disagree, as brothers, and let the matter drop.

I am glad that Mr. McKnight feels that the North American Bee-Keepers' Association is elastic enough to permit him to remain a member, as it surely is. In the same way, I hope the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association is also elastic enough to permit me to become a member when I may find it convenient to cross the line. If we cannot affiliate in name, we can, I am sure, associate in heart and spirit. Those of us in the United States who have felt the cordial entertainment from that fine body of Canadians while the North American Bee-Keepers' Association has been in session on their territory, would not willingly break loose every tie of fellowship.

ERNEST R. ROOT.

Medina, O., Feb. 25, 1892.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Mr. McKnight's Reply to the Above.

SIR,—Both Mr. Root and the editor of the *A.B.J.* approvingly quote an extract from a letter written by Dr. Miller, in which he says: "It seems strange that McKnight is not familiar enough with newspaper terms to know that the word available is constantly used to mean—"for reasons not satisfactory to ourselves we do not think it desirable to publish." I challenge Dr. Miller to name a dictionary extant in which his definition of the term may be found.

I make no pretensions to a thorough knowledge of "newspaper terms." I am not a professional writer. If my name were appended to a hundred newspaper articles in the course of a year, as Dr. Miller's is, and if I could write essays for publication on what "I don't know," I would probably post myself in the terms necessary to such an accomplishment.

But this additional contribution of Dr. Miller's to the controversy is only an attempt "to draw a red herring across the trail." It is not defined in "Webster's Unabridged" in the sense in which it was employed. I ran across it a few days ago in one of the back numbers of *Current Literature*, where its employment in this sense is soundly ridiculed.

R. MCKNIGHT.