

not think the absorbants will act very well unless of such a thickness that the lower part of the quilt is kept warm through covering above, and yet the covering is not heavy enough to prevent a current of air, carrying with it the moisture, slowly passing through the absorbant material. Now what condition have we? We have the moisture passing into the absorbants and as it approaches the outer edge, cooled by contact with outside air and condenses. The more that it condenses the more the packing becomes wet and a conductor of either heat or cold, and the more dangerous to the bees, and the greater the response of the temperature of the hive to outside changes. If the heat from the hive dries out the packing, more heat must be generated by the bees and more of their vitality consumed, would not reason incline us not to favor absorbants, but sealed covers kept warm by upward packing. There are probably many covers supposed to be air tight but not really so. On the other hand may some be packed to a great depth with close material not be almost non-absorbant and practically sealed. To study this question we should get at the *root* of conditions, does the above not give some light in this direction.

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Questions often arise in the mind of a beginner in bee-keeping. A leading one is:

Shall I take a Bee Journal

A Bee-Book or a bee-book to begin the Bee-Paper. study. This is our fourth

year at Farmers Institute meetings and we always say get a book by all means and more do not attempt to begin bee-keeping without a book, it will be of use to you in many ways. A good practical Bee Journal is also of use, in fact you should not attempt to keep bees without it, many a dollar should be gained per annum for the price of the subscription. Every man who wishes to advance and will study the business should take a bee paper. The kind who do not wish to keep bees in the best way better stay out of it. Their doom is generally sealed before they begin.

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When we opened the first number for 1895 of the American Bee Journal, we were very pleasantly surprised. It is

The A. B. J. in entirely new and pleasing form, in fact entirely

remodelled. The first page contains two excellent engravings of Chas. Dadant and C. P. Dadant, father and son, also an article upon "The Production of Extracted honey" by Chas. Dadant, the editorial "We" or something else appears to be popular. "We" shall probably stick to it, *the we*, for some time to give brother York encouragement. We hope brother York will be able to say I, I, to this.

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In the last number of Gleanings in Bee Culture we find a very true engraving of

John T. Calvert, the

John T. Calvert Secretary-Treasurer of the A. I. Root

Co., Medina, Ohio. Mr. Calvert is a Canadian and in a whisper to our Canadian friends we would say, as pleasant and nice as they are on the *other side* friend Calvert compares very favorably with those to be found in the land of his adoption.

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The 18th annual report of the National Bee-Keepers Union is to hand. There is no doubt that bee

National Bee-keepers throughout Keepers Union. the world owe a great deal to the

Union and its energetic manager Thomas G. Newman, 147 South Western Avenue, Chicago, Ill. It will be remembered that some time ago enquires were made in regard to Canadian members. Mr. Newman writes in reply as follows:

CANADIAN MEMBERS.

Inquiries from Canada have come to hand asking whether the Union would defend its members in that *Dominion*, the same as if they resided in the United States. Some of these also requested that the reply be incorporated in my next Annual Report. It is, therefore, given a place here. The answer is plain and explicit—the National Bee-Keepers' Union knows no dividing lines of States, Provinces or Territories—

"No pent up Utica contracts our power,
The whole unbounded Continent is ours.