

Storage room is a matter that should not be delayed until the last moment as it may incur great loss just at the critical time, when the extractor must be used in order to secure the largest yields and keep the bees in the best condition. Many of our colonies are preparing to swarm and many would have done so ere this, had they been permitted. to do so. We should not be surprised if excessive swarming is the rule in many apiaries unless they are carefully watched and the proper means taken to prevent after swarms. We have taken out dozens of large fine developed queen cells from some of our hives but by the use of a queen nursery we are able to preserve them for future use.

The interest in bee-keeping seems to be growing more rapidly, and to show how anxious some are to succeed in the business, we might mention that at one of our apiaries a number of hives have been examined by some unknown person, and a number of combs filled with brood, have been removed from the centre of the brood-chamber. If the party or parties who stole the above combs will acknowledge and ask forgiveness, we will freely grant it, and present them with a swarm of bees, that they may embark in the business in a more legitimate way.

#### QUEENS BY MAIL FOR 3 CENTS.

Postage on queens by mail is only 3 cents when shipped in the cages which we are now making. They are of very light, dry cedar, and will contain food sufficient for a 6 or 8 days journey. The dimensions of the cage are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. long x  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide and five-eighths of an inch deep. There are two apartments, one for food and the other for bees. The space for bees is about  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches round and half an inch deep; and that for food is about three-eighths of an inch broad and five-eighths of an inch deep.

#### MAKING NEW APIARIES.

We have now commenced to remove our surplus colonies from Beeton to our summer yards. We find the cost is very slight to take them out in the spring just as the honey season starts and return them as soon as it is over.

Where the roads are good it is not necessary to place the bees in even a spring waggon, providing the driver is careful and does not allow the wheels

to pass over any rough places or stones that may give them a sudden jar, but where the colonies are very strong it is necessary to place wire cloth or mosquito bar over the top of the hive first. From four to eight inch space should be allowed above the frames for the bees to cluster in. This will prevent the melting down of combs and smothering by bees; it reduces the cost of management of apiaries very much to reduce the number as much as possible early in the fall and take them back again the following spring. Where you have facilities for wintering them and can give them your attention, much loss is frequently obviated; besides one man in the early spring, or late in the fall, can look after a thousand colonies of bees about as well as he could one hundred in the honey season. Instead, then, of having to keep one employee in the out-apiaries for seven or eight months, two or three months is now sufficient.

#### NEW INVENTIONS.

We are now testing some new inventions which we hope to be able to report later on, and we believe our friends will appreciate the improvements now under consideration. What we want is to simplify and cheapen our system of producing honey as much as possible. If we can reduce the cost of production by any means, say 25 per cent, it just adds so much profit to our work and enables us to compete more satisfactorily against other goods.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

#### Bee-Keeping in the County of Kent.

THE death of a widowed sister, whose affairs it devolved on me to settle up, took me to Dresden May 10th, and detained me there several days. On one of the afternoons of my stay, I drove out to see an apiary located near the village. It is owned by Mr. E. Piggott, who keeps about fifty stands of bees, runs a hive factory, raises queens for sale, and deals in apiarian supplies generally. I was agreeably surprised at finding so extensive and complete an establishment in that part of the country.

Being fortunate enough to find Mr. Piggott at home, we were soon deeply in *confab* on matters pertaining to bee-keeping. Dresden is not a good locality for an apiary. There is comparatively little white clover and basswood. The