

Rural Canadian and at the North American Bee-Keepers' Convention, I fully expected many would have a gentle laugh at my expense, and they did have, but feeling then as now that the subject is an important one I hope we will hear more about it. My attention was first drawn towards it by practical experience, over one year ago. I saw honey that had been sealed after extracting, of a nice specific gravity. Some of the same honey which had been exposed to the atmosphere until for thickness I never saw its equal. But it had no flavor but sweetness. Reasoning, I decided it was plausible that it was this oil of so volatile a nature which had escaped. I took a sample to the Rochester Convention, thinking I would bring it up, but finally decided to wait another year and test it again as far as I could without analysis. This season I had a similar experience and considered it of so great importance that it was worthy of an article. It may have been spoken of in *Bee Journals*. I know not and care not as long as it will be now. If every bee-keeper would keep his honey from losing this flavor so volatile, he would find it an important factor in increasing the sale of his honey. One week I believe is sufficient time for exposure of extracted clover and thistle honey to the atmosphere and basswood a little longer to suit taste; then seal. It will be seen if this is a fact, the ripening can, or any artifice for thickening honey after it leaves the hive, will fail to give the best results. Mr. Corneil understood my question perfectly, I regret not having put it in a better shape for comprehension. There is so much judging of honey now at fairs that I thought a little light upon how to do it might be of interest.

R. F. HOLTERMAN.

Fisherville, Dec. 18th, '85.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear each week, Queries and Replies; the former may be propounded by any subscriber, and will be replied to by prominent bee-keepers, throughout Canada and the United States who can answer from experience, as well as by the Editor. This Department will be reserved for the more important questions, others will be answered in another place.

DO KING BIRDS EAT WORKER BEES.

QUERY No. 53.—Does the King-bird catch worker bees and eat them or does he not? Is his *Kingship* guilty or not guilty?

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—Yes, guilty.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N.Y.—I believe him guilty.

H. COUSE, THE GRANGE, ONT.—I believe he is guilty.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.—I don't know. I never saw one in the vicinity of my bee-yard.

JUDGE ANDREWS, MCKENNY, TEX.—His *Kingship* is thrice guilty, my lord, I have taken him in the *very* act.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—King birds are scarce here. I don't know that I ever saw one about my hives.

DR. DUNCAN, EMBRO, ONT.—I have shot some of those birds and examined their crop, but only found drones in them.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—I have seen the King-bird stand on the platform and eat bees when I knew there were no drones in the hives.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG, KY.—The King-bird or Bee martin sometimes eats bees, but I have never known them to prey upon bees except at that time of year in which the loss of a few bees does not amount to much.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—Yes, he *certainly* does. The worker bees have been taken from the bird's stomach. Yet, I believe—it is certainly true here—that the King-bird does no serious harm, and as it does much good, I should not advise that it be condemned.

P. H. ELWOOD, STARKVILLE, N. Y.—I don't know, but think he may occasionally, as do some other birds. We once shot a King-bird from an apple tree in full bloom. He seemed to be catching bees, but on dissecting him we found other insects in abundance, but no bees.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—He does. He may not always eat them, as it is the honey in the honey sack he is after more than the bees. He has been known however to seize queens and drones in mistake, probably, for the workers as he goes on the principle of "Jedboro justice" seizing the first one that comes along honey or no honey.

J. E. POND, JR., FOXBORO, MASS.—I have never known King-birds to eat workers in my apiary, although they exist in considerable quantities in my vicinity; but I have the statement of many others that they do trouble them to considerable extent. I think the weight of evidence is that they do eat worker bees, but I hardly think they do so to sufficient extent to cause any great injury.

S. T. PETTIT, BELMONT, ONT.—Guilty. I know he is guilty, for I have seen him in the very act, catching loaded bees as they were nearing their homes. But after all I regard them more