#### THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

suitable for gathering honey. He is physically disqualified for any work pertaining to the hive. He is absolutely of no use whatever except to impregnate the young queen, for which act he suffers the penalty of death. So, should he fulfil the duties assigned to him, his life may be merry, but assuredly short—not more than a month, probably. To compensate for this curtailed existence, he takes plenty of time to mature, as it is twentyfour days from the laying of the egg before he emerges a perfect insect. He is, as with the other inmates, three days

in the egg, but six days in the larva, and fifteen in the pupea state. In a state of nature there are often hundreds of drones in a hive, and this condition calls forth the inference from the great naturalist, Mr. Darwin, that it is an imperfection of Nature to produce so many drones when only a few are actually needed (Darwin, 164-2), but had Mr. Darwin been a practical apiarist, he would have learnt the great necessity of many drones, to reduce to a minimum the chance of the loss of his queen, through being caught by birds, driven by high winds, or beaten down in

### Aug. 1908

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rain or hail happens in more drones r fertilization by bring about th And I may m is never fertili as to avoid in-and-in breed it thus so as 1 the race. Sh absent herself account of scar of her loss a should this uni colony would b eggs remaining

other. Howeve

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