



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

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WHOLE No. 15

EDITORIAL

WE must apologise to our readers for the figures 1887 appearing on the cover of this issue of the JOURNAL. We have sent our wood engraving to Toronto to have the necessary block made for the present year, but as yet it has not come to hand.

The Secretary advises us that quite a large number are applying for railroad certificates and this he takes as an evidence of a large attendance at the Convention which will be held on the 10th and 11th insts. One or both of the editors of the C.B.J. hope to be present. We believe the names which were mentioned at the meeting of the committee on program have all signified a willingness to furnish papers, though we have not been notified to that effect officially. We do not, of course, understand why.

We have had many letters from our friends, all expressing pleasure in the reading of the interesting articles on English hives which we have been receiving from "Amateur Expert." His next talk will be on sections, section crates, etc.

DO BEES SELECT A HOME BEFORE SWARMING.

IN our younger days when living at home father kept a large number of colonies in box hives and in the old-fashioned way. About a mile from the

homestead we had another farm which we worked, and between this and the home farm the land was owned by another party. On the last piece of property was a small bush which we had to pass and repass every time we went between the farms. In a field next to this wood were a number of splendid pine trees which had been left standing. While passing one day father called our attention to the fact that a number of bees were going out and in a knot-hole in the side of one of the dry pines about forty feet from the ground. We watched them for some time and, after several days, in passing we noticed that they still continued going in and out of the hole in the tree, usually at mid-day. They could be observed carrying out little pieces of rotten wood and we concluded that the swarm had entered their future home. We could not see any signs toward evening of the work which they were carrying on, but father remarked that it must be a colony preparing a tree in which to locate when they swarmed and suggested that we should watch the bees which we had at home a little more closely. The Sunday following a large swarm issued from one of the hives and clustered on an apple tree. A hive was at once prepared and we were in the act of shaking them down in front of it when the whole swarm suddenly took wing and absconded. As was customary in those days the necessary racket was made on tin pans, kettles, etc., and dirt and water was