

came from the aiders, which are abundant here. I noticed a few maples grown around houses, evidently a nursery grown variety, that were fully in blossom on the first of April and these blossoms are now all gone, while the common soft maples are now out. This kind would be well worth planting. Speaking about trees, I noticed some basswoods planted in the Spring of '95 that were full of flowers last summer. These trees were about two feet high, with few limbs, as they had been taken from a thicket. Surely this is not long to wait. I believe it would be better for bee-keepers to scatter alsike than sweet clover, which is, in my opinion, greatly overrated. It grows freely here wherever sown, and the bees work on it even after some frost, but I notice they never stay long on one flower and don't seem to get much honey. I took six hives away some years ago in August, to where there was about ten acres of it and they did not improve in weight. I believe it always produces sour honey; just enough to amuse the bees, but not enough to give a surplus. I am confirmed in this opinion by being told by Mr. John McArthur, of Toronto, that last year was the worst honey year he ever had, and he is surrounded with sweet clover. The prospect for wild or Dutch clover was never better here, and yet I don't rejoice at anything that looks like a great honey yield, for I foresee that the price will destroy the profit. I see honey quoted in Toronto at 5½ cents. Where now are the men who said "We can't have too many good bee-keepers," and that if we had more honey there would be a good demand for export. Sometime when I am in a bad humor I will give those people a piece of my mind if you will supply the ink.

I notice a long discussion in the Yankee (I object to the word American, as applied to any separate part of America) bee-papers about spacers, and nails seem to be in great favor. Surely they must be quite in the road of the honey knife and troublesome in the extractor. Why not drive staples into the hives, the staples being just wide enough to keep the frames the proper distance apart? I know it will be objected that the frames could not be shifted sideways so as to give room to take them out, but I don't think that would be found a serious objection in practice. But, if that would not do, why not try a small metal button fastened with a screw in its centre to the ends of the frames. When in position the button being in a horizontal position, and the ends meeting would keep the frames the right

distance apart. When the frames required moving or taking out, all that would be required would be to pass a screw driver or similar instrument down between the frames and past the buttons, parallel with the ends of the frames, and they would be out of the way both of the extractor and honey knife. But I must stop, or you will have to enlarge the Journal or the waste paper basket.

Yours truly,
J. D. EVANS.

A Report.

—MRS. DAVID PAPPLE.

I see in the March number of the C. B. J., it spoke of no one standing in the way if we wanted to discontinue publishing the journal. For myself I would be very sorry to see it drop out. It is as good as a teacher to me. I love bees, and I love to read about the way they are to be handled. I know very little about bees, but I hope to know more some day. In looking over our bees this February, I found brood hatching on the 21st of the month. Is it something usual or unusual for them to hatch so early? There were only two hives at that time, and others had some sealed brood.

In the January number, G. M. Doolittle gave his experience of wintering bees in snow as not satisfactory. I don't think he gave it a fair show, as nothing would be supposed to live under 10 feet of snow. We have wintered our bees in the snow 3 years in succession, and have had better success than any other way. In the beginning of November we put wheat chaff cushions on top of the bees, as thick as the super will allow, then a board on top of the cover of the hive, then a brick on top of that, to keep the wind from blowing off the covers. When the first snow comes we bank it on the two sides and back firmly. You can open the hive when you like in winter and the bees always seem comfortable.

I tried a few hives this winter by shutting half the entrance, but do not care for it, as there seems to be a moisture form at the opening, and it freezes in an ice and shuts out the air altogether. I had to thaw them open different times.

I think Mr. Heise is right about the leaflets. I think they would do more good than anything else.
Peninsula Park Farm, March 26, 1898.