

OUR OWN APIARY.

The Freaks of a Swarm.

WE have had a rather amusing time with a swarm lately, and at the same time an unusual one. We took brood from a number of hives, and made a very strong colony of bees, by putting in the brood and allowing it to hatch out. In order to prevent them from swarming, just as they were getting ready, we removed the queen, and after they had all their brood hatched, and we had removed all the cells, we gave them a young queen. We then expected them to go to work at brood rearing, but contrary to our expectations they all swarmed out of the hive. And as soon as they commenced to light we caught the queen, put her in the hive and the bees all followed in. We then put the hive back on the old stand, where they remained for several hours, when they swarmed again. We hived them again, and so on four times. We could have prevented them from swarming but wished to see what they would do after they had swarmed four times. The last time swarming was late in the afternoon, and they were all right in the hive next day until between one and two o'clock; they swarmed again and went into a neighbors garden about fifteen rods away. We then came to the conclusion that they began to show signs of absconding, and we selected one of the best combs in the hive, where there was a little uncapped honey, and caged the queen on the comb. This was about four o'clock in the afternoon; they all went into the hive and remained until the next day, between eight and nine o'clock when they swarmed out again leaving the caged queen, and about three pints of bees with her. We were not in the yard at the time, and after examining all the trees in the locality we came to the conclusion that they had absconded to the woods. Every available place that they were likely to have clustered was thoroughly searched in the locality, and they were not to be found, but between four and five o'clock they all came back to the hive which they had left. We do not know, but we think they had gone to the woods,

which is a mile distant, but after finding that they had left their queen behind they returned to her again. They have now been in the hive five days. The queen has been liberated, and she has just commenced to lay. They seem to be willing to stay and accept their home without further trouble.

This is a further proof that bees will always return to their queen, if they leave her, and know where to go back to her again. We once had a colony of bees go nearly two miles before they discovered their loss. They flew about and at last they clustered on a limb, and ran over each other for a short time, when they took wing and returned to the parent colony. If the queen can be caught, or if a perforated metal entrance is used to prevent the queen from leaving the hive, no colonies need be lost in that way.

THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

ISSUED 1ST AND 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

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BEEON, ONTARIO, AUGUST 15, 1890.

For this issue we omit the department of "Queries and Replies," in order to make room for the reports of our correspondents regarding the honey crop throughout the Dominion.

We are just getting our box-weaving machine to work, and we look for big things with it. The machine seems to be perfect, and as soon as we get into the hang of weaving, we will be able to turn out 50 to 75 boxes per day.

DISCOUNT TO EXHIBITORS AT FAIRS.

If there are any of our readers who think of making an exhibit at any of the fairs of the country, we are willing to help along in the matter, by a liberal discount, so that all who wish to show may exhibit new goods. Off the prices of sample hives, smokers, honey knives, frames, sections, honey boards, honey extra tords, wax extractors, ripening cans, uncapping arrangements, feeders, etc., we will give a straight discount of 25 per cent. from our catalogue prices. From force pumps, foundation, glass jars, scales, honey glasses, the best discount we can make is 10 per cent. The prices are for exhibition purposes only, and as a proof that such is the case, those ordering will kindly say at what fair or fairs they intend showing. No more than one article of each kind is to be included in any order.