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Notes and Comments

By J. L. BYER

In August 1st "Gleanings" R. F. Holtermann, speaking of queen-clipping, gives the writer of these notes the following "business notice": "Propolize slightly the thumb and finger before beginning work; and if you scrape your hives well when the season opens and propolis is scarce, write to J. L. Byer for some of his surplus." With visions of money rolling in next spring from an unlooked-for source, was in somewhat of a dilemma as to what to charge for my special commodity, unless, as luck would have it, I noticed in the "American Bee Journal" a statement from Mr. F. Greiner in effect that in Germany propolis was worth from 25 to 50 cents per pound. Owing to the high price of honey, I think that my special brand of propolis should be worth at least \$1.00 per pound. To avoid being swamped with orders, I will only sell to Canadian bee-keepers who overhaul brood-nests and clip queens in March, and to show that I appreciate free advertising, I positively refuse to fill any orders until friend Holtermann has received his annual reply.

Prices of Honey.

While to some the prices suggested

by the Ontario Association Committee may seem a little high, when everything is taken into consideration, I believe that all will have to admit that, as compared with other food products, honey at prices suggested is not unreasonable. Apple-packers are offering from 50 per cent to 75 per cent more than last year's prices, and all kind of berries and other fruits are correspondingly higher than they were last season. Personally, would gladly sell much cheaper if the crop would warrant it, as the years I made the most money were when we had large crops and prices were quite low. However, as Mr. Deadman says, regardless of size of future crops, honey should not go as low as in former years, and for some years, at least, it is quite possible that present prices will be maintained. As to this year's crop, in our immediate vicinity the situation is much aggravated by failure of the buckwheat, caused by drouth and cool weather. It looks now as though our feeding for winter will about absorb all the surplus taken from the bees.

Winter Ventilation of Hives.

J. E. Crane, in "Gleanings," has the following re his methods of outdoor wintering: "I have most of my hives fitted with a tin tube, say $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter, 4 inches long, running through the outside case, packing and brood-chamber, five or six inches above the bottom. Then I am not worried about their getting clogged. In very cold weather it fills nearly or quite