

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### NO OVER-PRODUCTION.

ENCLOSE you one dollar for C. B. J. for ensuing year; but I think you ought to make us pay at least \$1.50 for it. It is certainly worth it, and we should pay "for value received." Your recent announcement of nearly 2,500 copies per issue at the close of the first year is very satisfying. Your JOURNAL enables Canadians to say for the first time in the history of magazines or newspapers in our country, "Now we have a journal equal to any in the United States in the same line." What visions of honey must have come before hundreds of your readers when they finished the President of the O. B. K. Association's forecast of the honey yield in Ontario for the coming season. He may well ask, in view of the fulfilment of his prophecy, what will happen to our markets provided we have no outlet for our honey? Suppose we all turn peddlers and do all the peddling possible. There would still remain tons and tons of honey on our hands.

I am not sure that the next five years will show as large a gathering of honey as the past five have shown. The low prices ruling for the past eighteen months, together with the severe losses in bees last winter, have drawn from the industry quite a number, and this decrease will doubtless go on, especially with those pursuing it on a limited scale, until it will be thrown largely into the hands of those who make the production of honey their chief business.

J. R. BLACK.

Garafraxa, Belwood P. O.

For The Canadian Bee Journal.

### PAPER SEPARATORS.

ALL the section cases used with paper separators were shipped by September. To date I have not any that I have used. I did not mention that I painted the paper on both sides to stiffen it, and to keep it from bulging they were used in dovetail sections. I did not require to leave them on the hives long, as by reversing the cases they were soon all filled out—some of them were gnawed a little. The paper is a cheap kind of parchment; the real parchment would be dear. I believe paper separators may be hardened to answer the purpose, which I shall try another year. My object in using them is this—to ship the section cases with separators without breaking up the sections; the section cases are like cigar boxes, each holding six sections. I can get them all filled out at once, turning the outside corners in over the centre of the brood chamber; these are used inside of top story. Do you not think that queens may be fertilized in confinement? I

have an extraordinary instance the past season. I had a colony that was weak and did not swarm in the swarming season; the queen was not very good and they built up very slowly. I had a queen guard at the entrance when they became a fair colony; one day while watching how the worker bees passed through the guard, I observed a drone darting too and fro outside of the guard. I also at once noticed a queen inside the guard; I waited quietly for a few moments when my surprise was increased, by seeing them mating through the perforated zinc; the drone hobbled from the entrance and I picked him up and found that fertilization had taken place. This was in a case of superceding. I left the guard at the entrance and did not open the hive till the fifth day when I found eggs, the young queen, and the cell from which she came. It occurs to me that queens may yet be fertilized in confinement.

C. HUMPHREY.

Wallaceburg, Ont.

In a previous letter to us, friend Humphrey spoke about paper separators. We wrote him for full particulars, and the above is his reply. The paper separators you speak of, we have no doubt would answer very well and be exceedingly cheap. Instead of painting them on both sides, they might be dipped in linseed oil, which would in all probability prevent the bees from gnawing them much. We might get paper with a very hard surface sized with some substance to keep it from absorbing moisture, which might make it bulge and also keep the bees from gnawing it. Thus far to our knowledge all efforts to secure fertilization in confinement have proved a failure unless it is the late efforts of Prof. McLain, of Aurora, Ill. We have known queens to lay when they were four or five days old and afterwards to become fertile. The fact of eggs being in the cells at that particular time does not prove beyond question that the queen was fertile. After all the experiments that we have tried, we feel a little doubtful as to their ultimate success.

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### OLLA PRODRIDA.

A CHATTY LETTER FROM FRIEND MITCHELL.

I cannot spin with Friend Clarke, viz., while in bed to exclaim "hibernation" and keep our journals supplied for a year from one word, aye, and many facts too. I am speaking with respect, for they must keep quiet; only I always get too many *headings*, or firstlies, secondlies, etc., and lose sight of the *tails*.

Well, you know that last spring I asked if bees could be killed; this would be fun for many of your readers, though not for the writer, for I