

with barrel staves on to 2x4 and 2x6 scantling. Have a wind-break of cedars, but until they are sufficiently grown I set corn fodder against the rail fence on the north and west sides.

Ilchester, Maryland.

THE OLD STYLE HEDDON HONEY BOARD.

Is Heddon's old style, slotted, honey-board patented; i. e., with full bee-space on one side?

We do not think that Mr. Heddon claims any patent on his honey board.

STRAW PACKING FOR BEE-HOUSE.

Would cut straw do to pack between walls of bee-house, space, two feet.

Straw cut very fine and packed well might answer the purpose, but think chaff would be preferable.

COAL OIL STOVE.

Is there any danger of coal oil stoves exploding or taking fire in any way? They should be safe for use in a bee-house.

Yes they are perfectly safe.

I think Mr. Pringle stated in C. B. J. some time last year, that by having all his queens' wings clipped, he could, if necessary, leave the yard in charge of one of his children, who, when a swarm issued, would catch and cage the queen, the bees would return and he could make them up at leisure. I would like to ask Mr. P. if he is not bothered with the bees going into wrong hives. All my queens have clipped wings and I think if I was not on hand with smoker and sheets, of some swarms, not a bee would return to the old stand. The full hives appear to attract them more than the empty hive on the old stand.

Mr. Pringle please reply.

SHORT CROP IN MICHIGAN.

S. H. MALLORY.—Honey will be a short crop here this season. Not much honey from clover and bass-wood not much better. Those are the main sources of surplus honey here.

Decatur, Mich.

The bass-wood is yielding here yet and has done fairly well, but the weather has been so warm that the bloom has dried up sooner than usual and has not done so well as was anticipated, when we take into consideration the immense amount of bloom. Canadian thistles are yielding very plentifully, in fact we only require plenty of moist weather with occasional showers to give us three weeks or a month from this source. While bass-wood was yielding the bees would leave their hives fully two hours earlier every morning than they would for the clover, and also work later at night. We could notice them on some of our young bass-wood trees around the village when it was so dark that we did not know how they could find their way back again. We certainly think

that they put in fully three hours more work per day on the bass-wood than on clover. This morning (16th) they were leaving their hive at daylight going to the thistles as well as the bass-wood. Two or three hours each day added to their ordinary time of gathering makes quite a difference in the amount of stores collected. Fall flowers are beginning to promise well. In favored localities we have found some of the bone-set in bloom. Never before do we recollect seeing bone-set in bloom so early in July.

WORKING BEES ON SHARES.

J. GEIGER.—I have more bees than I have room for on my small lot of quarter of an acre of land, with a good sized house, and barn, and garden spot on it, besides some fruit trees. I have my home apiary, and three more small bee-yards out in the country from 2½ to 5 miles from home. Here in Dansville (population 5000 or more) there is no place for bees; they have too far to go for sweet nectar or honey and Dansville is all surrounded with nursery stock which does not afford any bee-pasture. I would like to let out my bees on shares; will furnish good strong colonies in hives, with movable frames, Simplicity, some in double walled hives. I will furnish all the new hives put together complete with full sheets of foundation put in the racks in the brood-chamber, and all the sections with half or full sized starters in them, all ready for the bees; will also furnish some Heddon hives, all complete, and will furnish crates for honey. Now what share of the honey and increase ought I to have, working for comb honey? Would it be right and proper to return me the same number of colonies that I let the second party have, at the end of the term, whether it is two, three, or five years?

If you had a sufficient number to keep a party engaged all the time during the season we think it would pay the party taking them if he got half the honey, you getting half the honey and all the increase. At the end of five years if he did well and wintered them so that there was plenty at the end of that time you might divide the increase and give him half of it. Should you sell any increase during that time, of course leaving enough colonies for him to take care of, after taking prices of hives and their fixtures you might also give him a share of the proceeds. We think the better the man does with your bees the better you should do by him. If you got your colonies all back at the end of five years and got returns from honey and increase you could afford to divide up and be more liberal.