

CAPPINGS.

CUT FROM A VARIETY OF COMBS.

Bees In His Breeks.

STRANGE ADVENTURE OF A COOL SCOTCHMAN OF
HOWICK, COUNTY OF HURON, ONT.

SANDY Barns, of the 9th Con. Howick, is perhaps one of the best known farmers that township. By industry, straight and honorable dealings, he stands to the top of the ladder, notwithstanding the many mishaps that have befallen him during his life. About twenty years ago he nearly chopped off his left hand while hewing a wedge. A few years ago while driving a reaper his horses ran away, knocked him down and ran the reaper over him, mangling him so much that those who saw him concluded that his end had come, but Sandy did not think so and was soon to be seen at work again as usual. However, one day last week, Sandy's genuine Scotch blood was made to almost stand still in his veins, and this is how, we are informed, that it happened. He is a great lover of bees, keeps innumerable colonies and takes great delight in working among them. Upon this occasion he was trying to secure a fine young colony that had just swarmed and had nearly succeeded when the queen lighted upon Sandy and began prospecting for a suitable location. Now, unfortunately, there was a place on the seat of his pants where a patch should have been, and this opening the queen soon found, and in she went, followed by a thousand of her faithful subjects. Here was a dilemma that taxed this cool, canny Scot. He knew to attempt to stop them would be fatal, and as every second added to his trouble he shouted for help, but when help arrived the inside of his pants were bulged out with bees. What was to be done, anger the bees and death was certain, and although he had received many a good sting he still stood solid as a rock, not daring to move. The assistants had wits and soon procured a pair of scissors and by gently handling the pant-legs and shirt, he was soon cut out of his clothes and safely in the house, although his legs, body, face and hands, were badly swollen from the effect of the many stings. Presence of mind and cool Scotch courage saved him this time as it had saved him many other times before.—*Harrison Tribune.*

CONDUCTIVITY OF HIVE-WALLS.

With a view to test the relative conductivity of different hive-walls I recently spent about a week in conducting experiments, and in making preparations for them.

The hives used were eight frame Langstroth. No. 1 was a single-walled hive, made of scant 7/8-inch lumber, sent to a neighbor as a sample hive from the factory of Mr. Heddon. Nos. 2 and 3 were half an inch wider, and one-eighth inch lower inside. Both of these were double walled, with 1 1/2 inches for packing. The outer walls were plump 3/4-inch, ship-lapped, and lined with one thickness of building paper to keep the wind from driving in through the

joints. The inside walls were composed of picture-backing, say about 3/4 inch thick. In No. 2 the walls were firmly packed with cut straw, such as is used for fodder, and in No. 3 they were packed with granulated cork.

The bottoms were removed. In order to cause the cooling to take place as much as possible through the sides, each hive was covered with two cushions of wool tacked down with strips, the cushions weighing together 29 oz. There was a difference of only half an ounce in the weights of the three covers. To prevent the escape of heat as much as possible downward, similar cushions were fastened on the under side of the bottoms.

The first step was to verify my thermometers. I tested five instruments simultaneously, and, as it happened, the variations were so slight that, in experiments of this kind, they might be ignored. When everything was ready, a tin ball, containing 7 1/2 lbs. of boiling water was set on each bottom-board, and the hives set over them. The thermometers were then inserted through slits in the quilts, so that the bulbs extended into the water. After the mercury began to fall in each instrument, readings were recorded every half-hour for ten hours and thirty-five minutes. At the end of that time the temperatures, which at the first reading were 170, 171, and 175°, had dropped to 40, 48, and 58° respectively. It was noticeable, that at first the thermometer indicated higher in the single-walled hive than in either of the others, the heat in the latter being absorbed, I presume, in warming up the thicker walls.

It would, perhaps, be interesting to the reader to be able to examine the record of the readings in detail, but it would take up considerable space.

The outside temperature during the time the readings were taken averaged about 1 below 0. The following figures show the times of cooling down 100°.

Single-walled hive.....	330 min.
Straw-packed "	450 "
Cork-packed "	450 "

When this experiment was finished, I was not satisfied with the result. The double-walled hives did not stand close on the bottom-boards. I tried to fill up the cracks with Oakum; but with a wind blowing, and a zero temperature, a very slight crack would vitiate the result; so I resolved upon another trial.

In the second experiment I fixed up the bottom-board so that they would hold 2 1/2 inches in depth of dry wood ashes, this being a very good non-conductor of heat. On these beds the hives were placed, and pressed down so that they were comparatively air-tight at the bottom. In this case the bulbs of the instruments were not placed in the water, but extended below the covers about two inches. During this experiment the outside temperature averaged about 10° above 0. The times of cooling down through 65° were as follows:

Single-walled hive.....	390 min.
Straw-packed "	460 "
Cork-packed "	475 "

In this experiment I found that, having the hives close together, affected their rate of cool-