

A correspondent to the *Napanee Beaver* writes of Mr. Allen Pringle's apiary as follows:

"I took occasion to visit the apiary of Allen Pringle, Esq., who has proved himself to be one of the most enterprising of Canadian bee-keepers. He has a thorough knowledge of the subject, not only theoretically, but practically, his success being the best proof of this. I was deeply interested in his explanations, and his accounts of the several varieties and their traits. He has four kinds of bees, and I should say over 100 colonies, besides a large number belonging to Mr. Walter Membury."

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS.

### BUILDING QUEENS.

ANDREW GRAHAM, DALRYMPLE.—If a colony of bees lose their queen in the winter, and you place eggs with them is there any hope of their building a queen?

It frequently happens that the queen dies in winter and the bees hatch another in her place, but she is useless without fertilization. She is a drone layer, and before drones could be hatched in the Spring she would be too old to become fertilized, and, of course, useless.

### STRAIGHT COMBS.

C. OSWALD, ZURICH.—I would like to know how to get the bees to build straight combs?

There are various ways to do it, but there is one principle that must always be observed, and that is to crowd the bees sufficiently to enable them to cover the entire frames, or the top of the hive where they commence to build their combs. For instance, suppose a quart of bees would cover two frames, and build them down perfectly full of worker comb from top to bottom, if given four or five frames they would build the combs crooked. A colony that would cover four or five frames more or less, so they would have, say three frames more than they should, the outside comb would be bulged on the last rack they occupied and where they commenced building on the next one, it would be attached to the rack on the opposite side in all probability. If eight quarts of bees can occupy eight frames

and build combs straight, four quarts only occupy half as many frames if straight combs are to be secured. If you have very small swarms just give them room in proportion to their size, and straight combs will be the result every time. Better crowd them a little than give them too much room. It will doubly pay you to use starters of foundation in your frames, which will ensure straight combs with little or no effort on your part.

### CLAMP WINTERING.

H. F. HUNT, VILLA MASTIA, P. Q.—I have just received No. 6, and have read with much interest the clear description of the clamp in which Mr. Jones' bees were wintered, but there is one thing I would like to know, when were the bees put in the clamp? Did they fly afterward, if so how did they mark their location? I suppose they wintered on sugar-syrup.

We do not recollect the exact date on which the bees were put in clamp, they flew frequently after they were placed there, but the appearance of the long clamp six feet high in front, so changed the aspect of the yard where they sat that they all seemed to accept the situation, and none of them returned to their original stands. It was cool weather when they were placed in the clamp. If they are packed during a cold spell when they are not flying, no difficulty will arise from their returning to their old stand, the long entrance and strange surroundings seem to blot out the memory of their former quarters.

## SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

C. FRENCH, OSHAWA, ONT.—A great many bee-keepers in this section have lost all their bees. I have been trying to get them to take your journal and start up again. You may look for one or two more orders before long. My bees came through the hard winter very well. I have sixty-one out of sixty-seven put up last fall, and they are all good. I winter on summer stands. I like it much better than any way I have tried so far. I find there is a good deal in the way they are put in for winter. I find some lost their stocks from a large supply of buckwheat honey.