

The thinnest of all thread bound the little packets, which were of the flimsiest of paper, to the bees' backs. Great care was taken to leave the head and wings absolutely free. The windows were then opened and the bees thrown out into the air. With the certainty of carrier pigeons they started off at once for home, arriving there in an incredibly short time, with the packets secure upon their backs.

Naturally this project would only be possible in summer and in warm climates, for the reason that the bees would be unable to endure severe weather. Bees would have the advantage over pigeons or birds because of their invisibility. Nor would there be any difficulty in going through the enemy's lines. The apiculturist says that they could travel fifty miles quite as easily as they could four.

Though this is the first time that bees have been suggested as army messengers, there have been many cases when they have proved invaluable as defending forces. At one time, several centuries ago, the city of Tamly, in the Spanish territory of Xiatine, was besieged by the Portuguese. The invaders were winning bastion after bastion, when the beleaguered citizens were struck with a brilliant project. They brought all the hives that they could find in the place and set them upon the city wall, building great fires underneath them. The smoke and the flames so incensed the bees that they rushed out in swarms and flew down upon the enemy, making a panic instant and causing them to flee.

Very much the same plan was tried, and with equal success, by a statesman of Thuringia, whose house was surrounded one day by a furious mob. He marched his servants out with all his beehives and threw them one by one in the midst of the crowd. A cannon ball would not have been half so effective as were these strange and unexpected weapons. It took but a moment to clear the space around the statesman's dwelling.—N. Y. World.

attentive to thistle, and some surplus may be stored from this source. But the crop at best will be very light. Bee-keepers who have been desiring a non-swarmling race of bees, could have had their desires gratified if they had been living in my locality this season. I only had one swarm from twenty-five colonies and that, no doubt, will have to be fed up for winter. Therefore, I am thankful that no more swarmed, notwithstanding the slow and moderate yield. I have extracted from one colony 79 pounds, and expect at least thirty more, but this is my best, and I trust bee-keepers in other localities may have been favored with large yields.

Yours truly,
D. W. HEISE.

Wintering Bees.

To the Editor of the Canadian Bee Journal.

On page 318 of A. B. J., I notice an article by Geo Sage, under the heading of Wintering Bees in Box Hives. In the first paragraph he says, "I believe if a colony has a good hive and all the stores the bees want and are kept dry, they will come out all right in the spring. But I do believe that bees will withstand more severe weather in a box hive, than they will in a moveable frame hive. Now, while I have never kept bees in box hives and have never seen but one or two colonies so kept since the time when I had to stand on a sheet of paper to peep into a quart measure, therefore I speak theoretically, when I say that I fully concur in Mr. Sage's belief as regards bees wintering better in box hives than they will in moveable frames without some kind of protection. Because a swarm of bees dumped into a box, will build their comb to suit themselves, and according to their own instincts. And who will say that the peculiar shape in which they will build comb, when left entirely to themselves is not essential to their welfare during the winter season. I have sometimes thought when noticing the singular formation, and irregularity in which comb are sometimes built in trees, whether this was not done for the purpose of securing a circulation of air, peculiar to their own welfare, which we mortals knew nothing about. Then I believe bees will winter better in box hives, because the boxes are generally from 12 to 14 inches square, and 16 or 18 inches high. The bees are very seldom disturbed, or molested in their home which they have made to their own liking, the honey is principally at the top and above the cluster, and therefore as Mr. Sage says, if they have

Editor Canadian Bee Journal, Brantford, Ont:

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge through the C. B. J. the arrival of the Knoll Washer, which was awarded to me as a prize for sending in the largest list of new members to the O. B. A., for which accept my thanks. If my judgment is of any use, I pronounce it a likely looking machine, although we have not tried it yet. Bee-keeping has only been a partial success this season in this locality, imputable to late frosts and severe drought, which is still continuing. At this date bees are very