

OF THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Brood Frames.

DEAR SIR.—I mail you to-day a sample of my brood frames, and if you can see anything original about it that would be worth anything to bee-keepers, I wish you would show it to them through the JOURNAL.

The slotted top bar serves two purposes, namely, to prevent surplus comb and wax building on it, and it is also a good thing for wintering by allowing the bees to pass to any comb in the warmest and driest place in the hive.

The grooves in the end pieces are to keep the foundation in its place, and at the same time allow it to sag if it is inclined to do so. I put two wires from top bar to bottom bar—but the wires can be dispensed with by using two clips of stove pipe wire or narrow cuttings of tin—as you will see attached to bottom bar. It serves to keep the foundation in place just about as well as the wires.

When I only put in starters on the top bar I use the same grooved ends, and I put a starter in each end—it need not be more than $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide—it causes every comb to be built straight in the frames. I commenced to extract yesterday, the 4th July. I extracted from two colonies 85 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. This season has been very bad here so far. To-day has been the bees' best day out—the trouble being they all wanted to go out at once.

I have 80 colonies, and over 70 of them have their upper stories on—and nearly all working in them.

Yours truly,
R. A. MARRISON.

Inverary, July 5th, 1892.

We have before us the frame described above. It is a very neatly gotten up top bar. This bar is ripped out of inch lumber, slotted one quarter inch in the centre within two inches of each end. We have often used top bars made with 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ inch pieces, kept $\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart by two broad blocks at the ends and one narrow one in the centre. The slot in the top bar should be made to allow the comb foundation to extend up one-eighth of an inch in the slot, and a quarter inch saw cut in each of the side bars one eighth of an inch wide would of course allow the foundation if cut perfectly true to be easily fastened in these grooves, and as it would likely be fastened at the top first, the cut being sufficiently wide might perhaps admit

of slight sagging. Should the comb foundation require it instead of a groove being inserted in the centre of the bottom bar to permit the bottom of the foundation to go into it, he uses either of two devices, a little strip of tin a quarter of an inch wide and about three inches in length around the bottom bar with the two points sticking up about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch apart, this prevents the foundation when placed between it from swinging out of true. He also uses a little staple similar to a blind staple (we would prefer the blind staple to the wire he uses) driven through the bottom bar and raised somewhat. The ends of bottom bar project beyond the side bars sufficiently to prevent the crushing of the bees. The frame now occupies a place in our office where visitors may view it.

Red Raspberry For Honey.

Red raspberries pay well both in nectar for the bees and in fruit. The drooping blossoms protect the honey from moisture and the bees can work upon them when the weather is so wet that they can obtain nothing from the upright blossoms of the clover. They furnish a succession of flowers during more than three weeks, and yield a supply almost as lasting as the white clover. In favorable seasons the plants supply the table with delicious berries which are more easily gathered than strawberries during as long a time as the plants are in bloom. Where is the farm that cannot afford a few rods of ground, on which to raise this luxury?

Excessive Rain and Bees.

In the Orange Judd Farmer for July Mrs. L. Harrison says:—

BEES must yet be led to prevent starvation, for the continuous rains wash all the nectar from flowers, if there is any secreted. Raspberries are blooming, and their flowers secrete more nectar than most others during wet weather. We may reasonably expect honey some time in the future, for rains promote the growth of plants. I had a letter to-day from a bee-keeper living at Wewahatcha, Florida, who says that his honey crop failed on account of severe drouth which dried up all the flowers.

RAISING QUEENS.

I am now feeding liberally some of the brightest finely marked Italians, in order that they may swarm early and raise many large fine