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OUR OWN APIARY.

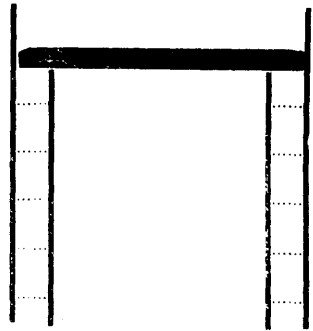
THE WALLWIN BEE YARD.

Now that the bees are quiet in their winter quarters it may not be amiss to occasionally give a description of some of our bee yards, especially as some of the friends have asked us to do so. The "Wallwin Yard" lying about four miles north-east of Beeton contains one acre. We have this yard rented for a long term of years. When we first rented it we levelled the ground nicely, which by the way is a nice sandy soil, in fact it is almost too light. We built a board fence around it setting the cedar posts four feet in the ground. The west and north sides are about ten feet high, south and west seven or eight feet; scantling is nailed to the posts and the boards run up and down. A poorer quality of lumber answers for this purpose just as well as a more expensive. We have two entrances to the yard about the centres of the south and east sides. The land slopes slightly to the south and east. After the fencing was done we planted thirty apple trees and one hundred and fifty grape vines; these we planted in rows arranged so as to form shades for the hives. Of course both trees and vines produced fruit but the owner of the yard seldom harvests any, the students and visitors saving him that trouble. Near the north-east corner we built a dwelling house, further west a bee house is built, standing 12 feet from the north fence so that the sloping roof from the top to the fence against the gable end of the bee-house forms a comfortable place for making and painting the hives with which the assistant in charge usually occupies his spare time.

From this work shop he can watch the yard that no robbing occurs and that swarms do not escape to the woods.

THE BEE HOUSE.

Is 20 ft. square outside and 16 ft. inside, making a hollow wall of 2 ft. which is filled with sawdust. We levelled the ground where the sills were to rest, then we laid inch boards (using them as sills) side by side until we had formed the 2 ft. in width all around, next we took strips of boards about 4 inches wide and 2 ft. in length and laid these across what we had already laid, placing them 2 ft. apart from centre to centre and nailing them to the bottom boards with 2 inch nails, this holds the boards or sills to place and forms a solid foundation to which is fastened the foot of the studs of each bent. Bents were then made, using joists 20 ft. long, these were nailed to studding 2 x 4 in. x 12 ft. and 2 ft. from the top of the studding down, then studding 10 ft. long were nailed 2 ft. in from the outside. The drawing given here shows one bent nailed together.



Strips 1 x 3 inches x 2 ft. are nailed across the rows of studding, and at intervals of 2 ft. right up the rows as shown in drawing, beginning within 2 in. or 3 in. of the bottom; this prevents the studs from spreading when the sawdust packing is put in. After all the bents are raised and fastened in position the building is sheeted outside and in, the roof is put on and the walls packed with dry sawdust as also over the joists,