

### Sending Bees by the Pound by Mail.

**P**OT two months ago we were the recipients of some most beautifully pathetic language at the hands of the railway mail clerks on our local line of railway. And their language was plentifully seasoned with "cuss-words" too. Do you all want to hear why? Simply because a half dozen little bees escaped out of a broken queen cage, sent from this office, and walked over the backs of the hands of the mail clerks, with their hot little feet, just half a dozen! But the edict went forth that if such a thing occurred again the heads of the Post Office Department should hear of it and we all know about what we would have to look for then. Think, then, for a moment of our chances if a whole pound should get loose and roll out of a sack, and turn in and help distribute the mail. Our advice is "don't fool with edged tools," and discourage the practice in others every possible chance.

For the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### The Man or the Hive, Which?

**F**ROM the numerous questions asked, and the hosts which are clamoring for the best hive, it would seem that all one had to do was to get one of Langstroth's, Jones', Root's, Heddon's, Shuck's, or some other good hive, to meet with certain success in apiculture. No matter how poorly attended to, if we only have a good hive we certainly have honey. From the many failures in the bee business, and the shipwreck ending in disaster of so many that started out joyously when embarking in the business, it will seem as if they depended more on using, or having their bees in good hives than they did on anything else. While a good hive has much to do with the results of beekeeping, the man has much more to do with a success or failure. Do men buy choice stock of any kind and then let them take care of themselves, expecting a profit from them? No, they spare no pains to have them properly cared for, and give them every chance in their power that tends towards success. Yet those same men will expect a large income from bees if they only have them in good hives, if they do not do anything for them once in six months. The idea that "bees work for nothing and board themselves" must be banished from our thoughts before we secure much benefit from them. Successful bee-keeping means work for man with

brains enough to know that he must leave no stone unturned that tends towards success. A good hive in the hands of such a man is a power which rolls up tons of honey and shows to the mass of people that there is money in the business. Such a man will have his bees in readiness for the honey harvest when it comes, and do things in just the right time to secure the best results. I am often asked, "what advantage has a movable frame hive over a box hive?" Much, every way, in the hands of a skillful apiarist, but none whatever with the man who never handles the frames to take advantage of the benefits to be derived from them, such as spreading the brood in the spring, making the strong help the weak, giving stores to the needy, taken from those having an abundance, cutting out queen cells to keep from ruinous over-swarming, etc., etc. What are the movable frames good for if not for the above purposes, and yet we have those all over the country that do not take a frame out of a hive once a year, who call themselves bee-keepers, and wonder why they don't succeed as Mr. A. does. They have the same hives they are sure. We come along some morning and say, "Good morning, friend B., how do the bees prosper?" "Pretty well, I guess, I have lifted the hives and they are all quite heavy. See here, lift this one. [We lift.] There, is not that a good one? I'll get lots of honey from that one this season." We step to the entrance and there is scarcely a bee flying. We ask, "how many square inches of brood is there in this hive?" "Oh I don't know. I have not had the frames out since the bees were put in the hive. I do not believe in fussing with bees as Mr. A. does." Thus we find plenty of bee-keepers, or those calling themselves such, all over the land. Is it any wonder that we have plenty of candidates for blasted hives? Mr. D. does not seem to realize that it is just this "fussing" as he calls it, of Mr. A., which makes his success so much greater than his own. I do not want it understood that a person is to keep continually overhauling his bees to make bee keeping successful, for we have some that go nearly as much to this extreme as Mr. B. does in letting his entirely alone. No, not that. What I mean is, that when a gain is to be made by looking inside of a bee-hive, do it, and at just the time when it is needed, not some other time when more harm than good will be the result of the manipulation. Spread the brood at just the right time, strengthen weak colonies at such a time as it will benefit them, without in any way interfering with the work of the stronger from which you take the brood, put on the sections when there is honey