

had a commission merchant named Hoge in England, trying, among other things to effect sales of his honey. Although the superiority of the American honey was not questioned, still the insular pride of the Britishers would not concede it, and his cause seemed forlorn until his landlord told him that if he could once get his honey on the royal table success was certain. The landlord introduced him to a former steward who was now in the grocery business, to whom he gave a large order for goods to be disposed of in America. The ex-steward next promised that he would see the present steward and prevail on him to place the American honey on the royal table, which he did. Victoria's palate was so tickled over this fit food for queens that she gave orders that hereafter American honey should be always served to her at meal times.

Hoge made this matter known to the public through the press, and thenceforth American honey was eagerly sought after. These are stubborn facts that cannot be gainsaid, and if our Canadian friends follow suit they may be in like manner just as successful.

GEO. J. MALONEY.

The trick which was played on the English people by Hoge has done more harm to American honey than all other things combined. It would not perhaps have been so bad if the man who performed the trick had kept quiet about it, but to come and blow about it, upset all his calculations, and to-day it is almost impossible to dispose of American honey in England. Certainly none of it has found its way to the royal table. Canadian honey has been eaten by Her Majesty the Queen, and Canadians are, for that matter, already honey producers to the Queen, but we are not going to trade upon the people's loyalty. We want our honey to sell itself and we have no fear but in the right time some one will come to the front prepared to purchase and ship Canadian honey to the English market.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

CONTRACTION VS. MANIPULATION.

ROTWITHSTANDING the diversity of views regarding which is the best method of securing this result, there is great unanimity in the decisions that to successfully raise comb honey the brood-nest must be full of brood at the opening of the honey harvest. Let the bees outstrip the queen and the honey flow will outstrip that colony. It is useless to extract the honey with the hope that

the queens will fill the empty cells with brood, as the bees will at once re-fill the cells with honey. The only remedy is prevention. Of course, combs of brood might be taken from other colonies and given to this one, but this would only be "robbing Peter to pay Paul." If the queen is at fault, replace her with another, and then run the colony for extracted honey.

There are two methods of prevention: manipulation and contraction. Manipulation usually consists in spreading the brood and taking combs from the outside of the brood-nest and placing them in the centre. To successfully practice this in the north, protection is needed early in the season. By using a brood-chamber of such a size that an ordinarily prolific queen can and will fill it with brood in the spring, the labor of manipulation is saved. Queens are cheap; as ordinarily reared in an apiary worked for honey they do not cost three cents apiece. Why not have enough of them to keep all the combs full of brood without being obliged to urge them to exertions by spreading the brood? The only objection is that a few more hives will be required, but each hive will cost less because smaller, and because wide boards are more expensive than narrow ones. But, if manipulation is to be employed, how much more economical to practice it by manipulating hives instead of combs. Bees aim to keep their brood-nest in a nearly spherical shape. If we are able to divide this brood-nest horizontally through the middle, and then transpose the two half spheres, thus bringing their spherical surfaces together in the centre of the hive, we have accomplished in a twinkling nearly all that manipulation can do. We have placed at the top and bottom of the hive those portions containing the most brood, and brought to the centre those portions containing the least brood, and all by a simple twist of the wrist without touching a comb.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

Rogersville, Genesee Co., Mich.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

A PLEA FOR THE BEES.

IN many experiments and tests I have made during the last 15 years, at this, my home apiary, which I will state consists of about seven and a-half acres of ground, and a beehouse 100 feet long, in which I keep my bees on a platform, properly constructed for the stands so that the bees can at all times in the working season go and return at will, and as a means of protection from the forenoon sun, I have arranged grape vines, properly planted 15 feet apart at each front post, so they are thus supported, and branch out each way on the front