

Amateur Bee-keeping.

HAVE selected the above topic as the basis of a few remarks on the honey industry of Ontario. If an amateur be one who takes up and prosecutes the study of his subject, because his tastes lead him in that direction, regardless of the substantial profits he may reap from it, then I fear there are but few true amateurs in bee-keeping. Exaggerated notions of the profits derived from bees, and the erroneous opinions entertained by many, that bees "work for nothing and board themselves," lead more men to engage in bee-keeping than does the desire to cultivate a closer acquaintance with the life and habits of the bee. Still, the interior economy of a bee-hive is so wonderful, the instinctive powers and social habits of the insect so remarkable, that ordinary people become enamored of the calling, and, in a measure, prosecute it for the pleasure and information it affords. Most practical bee-keepers are more or less amateurs, and like their calling for the pleasure it brings with it, which goes far to compensate them for hopes occasionally deferred, or a stinging resentment of their untimely interference with the domestic concerns of the pets.

A dozen years ago bee-keeping was in its infancy here, and but few understood the subject. To-day there are hundreds of people throughout the province who have little to learn of the life history of bees, or of the theory and practice of their management. A dozen years ago honey was considered a luxury, and could only be bought in drug stores. To-day it finds a place in every well regulated grocery, and is with many people a daily article of food. A dozen years ago a few hundred pounds of honey was considered a large gathering. To-day there are hundreds of men throughout the country, who annually harvest tons of it. A dozen years ago its price precluded its common use. To-day it may be bought for a little more than the cost of good syrup. Such has been the increase in apicultural knowledge, and what that knowledge has produced in the last decade, that we sometimes wonder what it will result in twenty years hence, for people are constantly joining the ranks of those engaged in the honey industry, whose possibilities can only be known when the necessary force to fully develop it is employed.—R. McKNIGHT in Canadian Horticulturist.

Owen Sound, Aug. 11th.

Unless you have a special reason for leaving, stick to the farm and be a man.

When you know the needs of your soil it is best to mix your fertilizers at home.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Notes and Comments.

BY QUILL.

THE MARKETING SEASON.

A WRITER in the *Orange Judd Farmer* SAYS that the best time to ship comb honey is in the months of October and November, not only, perhaps, because the weather may be somewhat more favorable for the work, but also because the markets are supposed to be more active than usual during these two fall months. He thinks the old style of putting the honey up in ten to twenty pound cans is a failure, and that it should rather be put in small sections, as large packages do not take readily in any market. There appears to be some reasonable ground for the opinion, inasmuch as the retailer would naturally find it difficult to get rid of his stock in larger than one to two pound cans, and the wholesale merchant finds it to his account to suit the views of the retailer in reference to the packing of an article which cannot be handled and transferred from larger to smaller packages without loss and inconvenience. Honey, it is further suggested, should be taken from the hives as soon as the harvest is over, and sometimes before; generally, as soon as the combs are well finished. A writer in the *Wisconsin Farmer* says that, if not promptly removed, the cappings will become soiled and look brown, or "travel-stained," as the *Orange Judd Farmer* calls it, a condition which, though not affecting its keeping or palatable qualities, lessens its market value. The writer goes on to say that the sections must be scraped to remove the propolis which always adheres to them as they are removed from the hive. It is a good plan to pile them on a bench in a warm, well ventilated room two or three weeks before crating for market. Prepare a bench for the purpose by taking boards about 14 inches wide, lay them on empty hives or some similar support to raise them from the floor. Lay on them common lath, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches apart, and place the scraped sections on these so the corners rest on the lath. Sections that are seen to be fractured or leaky should be pieced by themselves. Some will be fractured so slightly that they will not be discovered in handling, but if put at once in shipping crates would leak and soil others. If piled in this way in the store-room, the leakage drops down between the laths, and nothing is daubed. Another advantage of thus piling them is, if there are any eggs of the bee moth in them, they will all hatch within two or three weeks, and can be known by fine white dust on the surface.