

I then placed a part of the peaches indoors where the bees could not get at them. In about three hours time, as before, quite a number of the peaches showed decayed spots. Some had commenced to get mellow, but the greater part of them commenced to rot before getting mellow at all. Well, wherever they were left out of doors the bees found out what was going on, and kept going over the peaches, waiting for a soft spot to appear. Before these soft spots appeared a whitish down always indicated where rot was going to commence. The appearance was something like mildew. Good peaches, however, that became mellow before this rotting commenced, were never attacked or injured by the bees at all. If, after the peaches get mellow, they are tumbled around in the baskets so as to bruise the skin, they will be attacked by the bees. They will also, within 24 hours as a rule, commence to decay if the bees do not get at them.

Now, friends, I think you have the truth of the whole matter. The bees do not injure sound peaches. They will, however, get through the skin at once when this process of decay commences, and it will start out through the basket of peaches in just a few hours—that is, if you sort out every decayed peach, and every one that shows any symptoms of decay, at nine o'clock in the morning, during hot, rainy weather, by noon you will find a good many that have commenced to rot—enough so that the bees will get at them. In a few hours more the peach will sometimes be too rotten for sale or for use. Now, I do not know whether this kind of rot always occurs with these sweet clingstones or not. I have noticed it several seasons, but I never saw it so bad as this season. It commences when the peach is nearly ripe, and it may attack fruit before it is mellow, or after it is mellow or not at all. It is not the same kind of rot that spoils fruit when it rots from over-ripeness. If you get a remedy for the rot, you will also have a remedy for the bees, and this kind of rot is certainly a very serious matter to fruit-growers.

Now, then, there is one other trouble: When your fruit gets bruised so as to break the skin, the bees will rapidly take out the inside. This makes them a nuisance. People who handle fruit however, greatly magnify the effects, and my neighbor was greatly surprised to see me pick out peaches and push the bees away with my finger, in order to show him the white mold which is the fore runner, or harbinger, of the rot on every peach where the bees had found an opening. He could hardly believe me when I

told him they did not chase his people out of the orchard.

Now, I wish this whole matter might be fully understood, and I wish our agricultural papers would copy the facts I have here given. There is some trouble with bees and fruit, I am well aware, but the trouble is not so great as fruit-men often imagine, and I am sure it will be very much less expense to arrange the damages in an amicable way, rather than to attempt to right the matter by going to law. Let the bee-keeper and the fruit raiser both look into the matter and talk it over in a friendly way. I proposed gathering the fruit or paying the damages, but my neighbor finally declared there were not sound peaches enough there in the first place to be worth talking about. He knew many of them were rotting even before they were ripe, but he did not know the bees were at work on the trees, *only* on those that had begun to rot.

Another thing: The bees would pay no attention to these peaches, even the sweet ones, were it a season honey could be found in the fields. With us, however, the bees seldom find honey enough to keep them busy at the time when peaches begin to ripen.

From Canadian Live Stock Journal.

September in the Apiary.

THE WEATHER, ETC.

FORTUNATELY the drouth appears to be broken. Just after my last letter was sent to this *Journal* in July we had a heavy shower of rain (18th), which was quite general throughout the dry district in Central Ontario. There was not, however, enough to go to the roots of potatoes and other vegetables, yet it did much good to late grain and the root crop generally. Then, within the following 18 or 20 days, there were two more showers, each less in amount. But now, at last, we have had what may be fairly called a rain. On the 13th of August, the long looked for and welcome descent came in sufficient quantity to reach the roots of everything. And withal it came so gradually that it ran in instead of off the land—in to the roots of the potatoes instead of down off the hill, and between the rows, as it does when it comes down rapidly. As a consequence everything now is looking up, and the bees with the rest.

TO WORK AGAIN.

After a long enforced idleness, that is, so far as the ingathering of surplus was concerned, the bees are again at work, with a good prospect of laying in, not only winter stores, but probably