

and less for personal interest and ease. Thousands of dollars are often voted for needless things, yet when a few hundred are really deserving and necessary, it is withheld. I, for one, am willing to give the women a chance to try their hand at doing justice, and let the men stay at home until they are fully rested and informed about the needs of the best part of our population—those who live and work on farms.—Editor A. B. J.

[We would hardly care to see women in parliament, but we would like to see as many men as possible in positions of influence, who recognize the importance of bee-keeping and all agricultural pursuits. In Ontario we fortunately fare better than in Illinois. With such men as Dr. Sproule the Honorable Secretary of State and many others we may hope to have the bee-keepers interests looked after in the Dominion House.

Hiving Absconding Swarms.

—S. T. Pettit.

I always did like to run perpendicular to some heavy opposing force and especially so when I know I am on the winning side. And this time it is my good fortune to oppose the views of my good friends Messrs. R. L. Taylor and B. Taylor—both eminent for experimental work.

Now, if I understand the writings of these friends, they both hold that if a swarm of bees take it into their heads to leave for parts unknown that the ringing of bells or other noises has no effect in thwarting their purposes—they will go all the same.

Now, I may be allowed to say that about fifteen years of successful practice without losing a swarm when I had a fair start with them proves beyond a doubt to my mind that absconding swarms can be secured.

I tried shot gun and mirror, and as these failed, I then framed a square yard of wire cloth and secured it to the end of a light pole thinking that if I should "swipe" the leaders down the swarm would be confused and settle; but this failed also.

From my first Italian queen I re-queened a large number of hives; of course these

young queens all produce hybrids, but they were dandies, never had better bees but they evinced a strong desire for fields far away, and the sight of my best swarms with Italian queens rising higher and higher, then circling round with such wild determination, then stretching away out in a bee line for their new home overwhelmed me with feelings of admiration and grief.

Repetitions of these painful though majestic scenes set me to reasoning that man ought to be able to control these determined little absconders. I tried every device that seemed likely to succeed but the "clatter" and although the books and best writers condemned it, I thought I could see more hopes of success in great and continuous noise than all other efforts put together; therefore I resolved to try this one also. I drove out nine miles and purchased two feet of a broken mill saw; this I used with perfect success for a number of years but repeated blows with a hammer at last broke it, and then I purchased two good cow bells.

For handles I used stiff leather like harness tugs. With a bell in each hand and an even start we have not once in about fifteen years failed to save absconders and we have had many severe tests.

What I have done, others can do also in country places. The conditions are not favorable in cities and towns. A remark or two may be necessary. Always have the bells ready at hand. The trained eye can generally detect the intentions of the bees before they get a start. Now just so soon as you see the course they are after step right in front of the leaders and open fire. Now mind you there must be no cessation nor slacking, no not for a single moment, the job must be energetically and well done, and victory is sure. During the operation you must keep your eye upon the leaders and if they veer to go round you keep in front of them, in fact you must keep ahead of all the bees. Some few stubborn swarms may drive you forty rods or more but such cases are unusual.

Now, I suppose "advanced" apiarists will smile audibly; well, all right for if this article teaches some how to save their bees and gives merriment to others, I shall be well repaid.

Belmont, Ont.

April 17th.

In another column will be seen an advertisement by Mr. Jacob Alpaugh, Galt. That gentlemen seeks to engage to run an apiary for some one. Mr. Alpaugh is a good bee-keeper and any one requiring such services can make no mistake in engaging his services.