

plant which has been described above yields considerable honey, and the seed was sold to bee-keepers. Since it was found, however, to be a pest, the sale has been discontinued and the efforts of the farmers now seem to be to get rid of it as fast as possible.

1. When it is in bloom take some convenient tool and cut it a few inches below the surface. If cut at the surface (a plan followed by some pathmasters) its growth will be aggravated, and where only one stem was, several will appear.

2. Summer fallowing readily gets rid of it, if the ploughing is done carefully and the large top roots well turned over. It seeds in the second year, and consequently if prevented, the plant must soon be extirpated.

3. Plants in the fence - corners can be easily pulled up when the ground is soft. In stony pastures it is sometimes very bad; in such cases pulling and spudding must be resorted to.

*Lithospermum arvense* (Pigeon weed, Red-root, Gromwell). This weed is considered a great nuisance in some parts of the Province. Where fall wheat is largely grown, if it gets a foothold it is likely to spread. It succeeds best where it gets a start in the fall, consequently we find, where spring crops are principally grown, this weed is comparatively scarce. It is about one foot high, roughish stem, small white flowers, and a very red root; the seeds are hard and stone-like, and will last for years before they lose their germinating power. Thorough cultivation must be followed where the weed is common, and if no fall wheat is sown the plant will soon disappear. Many resort to pulling it, but this entails much labor, and if not carefully done, many plants are left to supply seed, which will, as soon as a return of fall cultivation suitable to give them a start is made, appear again.

We have to thank the publishers of the *Canadian Live Stock Journal*, of Hamilton, for the loan of the engraving presented herewith. The description of the plant is taken from an article in the above Journal written by Prof. J. Hoyes Pantou, of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

#### Are we Deteriorating in Our Management of Bees.

THE bees of Burr-Oak Apiary seem to have gone "clean daft" this year. Unsealed brood, clean, cool, brand new hives, scented with peppermint or salt water, and everything, all cosy and home-like, has no more effect upon them than it would upon a fence post.

They are determined to go the woods and to the woods they go, in spite of the boss (?) or anything else.

Have had two or three swarms go directly from the hive to the woods, without even stopping to bid us "good-bye."

I have had five good first swarms go to the woods since July 1st, and "more to hear from." It almost makes me decide to commence clipping wings. Besides this bad luck, the bees have not gathered an ounce more honey than they had last year at this time. It looks like a worse year than last, if possible.

Still the fall flow is yet to be heard from, and by keeping our colonies strong in brood we may be able to partly make up for the present deficiency.

I am not discouraged, and if I were, it would take considerable more than three bad years to make me give up bee-keeping!

I notice that this craze for going to the woods is not alone confined to this locality. It seems to be quite universal, and the heretofore sure cure of unsealed brood will not hold them—at least in my apiary.

We now come up against the question: Why are they so suddenly and universally determined to go where they can rule their own harem? Is there something wrong in "Jonathan's" management? Or is it instinct?—telling them that we are going to have another bee-killing winter, or some other equally as bad catastrophe. We all know that insects and animals have a far more acute instinct than the human family has. Can it not be possible that we, in our age of improvements (and patent bee hives), are wandering away from Nature's fold to our own great disadvantage. Can we not learn more from Nature's way of management?

We should not be so anxious to try every new invention that comes up, until it has been proven (by more than one person) a success, for by so doing we compell our bees to put up with something which eight times out of ten is the product of some light-headed crank, who desires a little notoriety at the expense of his bee-keeping brethren, and whose principle is generally entirely against nature's way and consequently in the end not only a great discouragement to the bees, but a drawback which perhaps the whole season would not counteract.

I do not desire it to be understood that I am prejudiced against all patents and inventions, for I am not. If anybody esteems and honors Father Langstroth, the late Major Van Hruschka, or any of our other inventors who have worked hard and earnestly to benefit their