

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

QUEBEC MATTERS.

Recently, in looking over some of the last issues of the JOURNAL, which want of time had prevented me from doing before, I noticed what you had said on page 212, Oct. 1st No., in reference to the poor honey exhibit at the Sherbrooke exhibition. It was not very large; that is true. But then their prizes were only \$2 each on comb and extracted honey,—not enough to tempt a beekeeper to make an exhibit unless he expected to derive a benefit aside from the premiums offered. No doubt a vigorous beekeepers' association, by agitating the matter and properly representing things to the directors of these agricultural societies, might induce them to do much better.

But Ontario beekeepers must not think we are altogether behind the times in the matter of honey exhibits. The exhibits of honey, both in quantity and quality, and also of apiarian supplies at the Montreal Provincial Exhibition this year—and last, too—was pronounced by good judges to have been nearly equal to that of Toronto.

Two beekeepers' associations have been formed in this province. The French beekeepers took the initiative by forming a society about 1878. Mr. J. B. Lamontagne, at that time of Montreal, was its leading promoter. He afterwards left the province, and the association melted away. This gentleman was the author of a hand-book on apiculture (French), and he did much to advance the interest of modern beekeeping among his countrymen.

A few years later the Eastern Townships Beekeepers' Association was formed. This prospered fairly well for a time, but finally died, too, but not before it had secured through its president, Mr. E. E. Spencer, M.P.P., a grant of \$200 per year from the Provincial Legislature which, however, was never drawn.

Beekeeping, in the modern sense of the word, has made vast strides in this province during the few years just passed, and we are hoping to soon see a representative beekeepers' association formed here on

larger and broader lines than the former ones, and embracing the whole province. I expect to have something further to say about this matter in a future issue.

F. W. JONES.

Bedford, Que., Nov. 17th, 1892.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Some time ago I received a copy of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. I now enclose you \$1 for subscription. I also received during the year a number of sample copies of American publications, but have concluded to patronize home production. I started last July with one colony of Italian bees, received from a Nova Scotia apiary, and in one of the Jones combination hives with two supers and sections full of comb foundation. The venture has been entirely unsatisfactory thus far; but, as I am determined to give the bees a fair trial, I beg your co-operation and advice. I believe I am the pioneer in this country, and am anxious to succeed. The following are a few of my difficulties:—First, I cannot get the bees to work in the sections except to nibble away a part of the foundation, which, I presume, was used in building brood chambers below. On examining the frames, I found them only partly (a very small percentage) capped, and a large quantity of the comb with no honey in it at all. I procured Prof. Cook's Manual, and he recommends for winter preparations removal of two or three frames to provide a space for the bees to cluster and in which to place the feeder, and here I am considerably nonplussed,—how to put a feeder in the hive and what kind of a feeder to use. I cannot see where the room is for such when the cover comes hard down on the frames. I moved the bees into my house cellar yesterday, the 8th inst., temperature 45°. I handled them very carefully, but they were considerably agitated and a number came out and clustered on the outside of the hive; but, as far as I can see, with very few exceptions have all returned. Do you think the