



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

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EDITORIAL.

AT the Provincial Exhibition held at Ottawa last week the D. A. Jones Co (Ld.) were awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for hives, diplomas for wax and honey extractors, and the silver medal for the best display of honey and supplies.

Mr. Thos. W. Cowan is in Washington at present. He intends to sail from New York on Saturday next.

The agricultural returns just issued from the Ontario Bureau of Industries contains a report of the honey crop this season throughout the province. Twenty-eight bee-keepers contribute and all agree that whilst the increase was good, the honey harvest has only averaged 20 lbs. per colony and careful treatment and liberal feeding will be necessary to carry the bees through the coming winter.

Do Bees Always Build Hexagonal Cells?

MANY of our prominent bee-keepers and writers assert they do, in fact it is the prevailing impression that bees always build perfectly hexagonal cells. We have now before us about one dozen different specimens of comb that have been cut out. These vary in size from four inches square to half the size of an ordinary comb. In these pieces

there are a large number of cells of almost every imaginable shape, some oblong, a few hexagonal and some V shaped; some have three sides the ordinary hexagonal shape, the other three made with two forming a V running off to a sharp point, some are formed somewhat like a V, then others are as perfectly square as the bees could make them and not a few are triangular; some are five sided, some are nearly round, some heart shaped, in fact we could hardly think of a shape that might not be found in some of the pieces. The square cells are in perfect rows two inches in width and six or more in length nearly all perfectly square. Most of these different cells had brood in them and we have not been able to detect any difference between the bees hatched in these peculiar shaped cells and those hatched in the ordinary ones. It seems that some colonies are more inclined to build peculiar shaped cells than others.

We have known some colonies to build more or less of these cells in every comb. Some may imagine that the bees with their mandibles are not able to construct other than perfectly hexagonal cells, but after years of close observation we have decided that they can and do build them in almost every conceivable shape. As to the cause we do not know what it is unless it be that the overseers get lazy and neglect to instruct the young bees how to go about their work properly. After considerable experimenting we have come to the con-