

is difficult to get lumber the right width to make the cover all in one piece so that we make it of two pieces and tongue them with metal. The end supports of the lids are about two inches wide and are grooved in the centre so that the cover boards slip into the groove. The ends prevent the lid from warping, and hold it in position so that it cannot slip backwards or forwards; at the same time it makes the top waterproof so far as the ends are concerned. To hold the sides of the lid against the side of the hive we tack one strip on each side at opposite edges on different sides of the lid. These strips are about half-inch square. The one on the under side of the lid makes that side waterproof while the one on the upper side prevents the water from running off on that side. So that unless the rain should be beating against that particular side of the hive the cover is thoroughly waterproof, as all the water has to pass over to the opposite side of the lid where the strip on the under side prevents its passing into the hive. It is slid on the hive from either side by reversing. We used the slanting covers for a great many years and thought that they were pretty nearly *par excellence* but after a short experience with flat lids we must say that we like the latter much better. They take up very little room in storage, less than half the space occupied by the old style, being much lighter in weight and less bulky. They reduce the cost of freight when being shipped to customers. In our experience we have not been troubled with them blowing off. The wind does not seem to be able to get under them the same as with the lid which we have heretofore used. We do not, unless specially ordered, send out the old style any more.

The tremendous heat of Saturday the 16th inst. played sad havoc amongst the bees in some sections. We have an instance where a bee-keeper, a few miles from Beeton, had all the combs in his twenty hives melted down, the bees all smothered and nothing left but a dirty, sticky mass. We have had no trouble ourselves and we doubt very much if the bee-keeper referred to would have met with such a loss had he looked out for the proper ventilation of his hives. This is an important matter.

## OUR PORTRAIT GALLERY.

MR. T. W. COWAN.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BRITISH BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE editor asked me, a short time since, to give him a sketch of the life of this gentleman for the columns of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, but I first wished to give an outline of the constitution of the B. B. K. A., of which, as I told you in my last letter, he is the worthy *chairman* but not the *president*. But this morning's mail brings me a letter from Mr. Cowan, saying he had arranged to sail for New York, early in July, consequently I hurry this off, hoping it will be in print before he arrives in Ontario.

Thomas William Cowan, chairman of the British Bee-keepers' Association, editor and proprietor of the *British Bee Journal*, Fellow of the Royal Geological Society, Fellow of the Royal Microscopical Society, Member of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Queckett Microscopical Society, the Palaeontographical Society, etc.; author of *British Bee-keeper's Guide Book*, *Bees and their Management*, *Wintering Bees*, *Doubling and Storifying*, *How to make an Extractor and Smoker*, *Bee-keepers' Note Book*, etc., was born at St. Petersburg, Russia, on the 2nd of January, 1840. His father at that time was an engineer in the service of the Russian government, and continued in the same until the year 1854, when, at the outbreak of hostilities between England and Russia, which resulted in the Crimean war, he left that country. Mr. Cowan's father was addicted to scientific pursuits as a pastime, and his son imbibed from him his love of science. Mr. Cowan's boyhood was passed in St. Petersburg. He was educated at the public school there called St. Peter and St. Paul, which he left at the age of fourteen, and his education was continued at the Royal School of Mines London. He began life as an engineer, but subsequently gave it up as a profession, got married and settled down as an English country gentleman, his means being so ample that there was no necessity for his pursuing his profession as a livelihood, and he thus had ample opportunities of giving himself up wholly to his beloved scientific pursuits.

From early youth his love of natural history was strong, but as time advanced he devoted himself more especially to the study of apiculture. It was in the year 1860, then in his twentieth year, that he first directed his atten-