

Stock Sales.

On the 17th inst., Seth Heacock, of Kettleby P. O., will offer for sale about 20 head of short-horns of Bates and Booth blood, comprising cows, heifers, bulls and calves. The above stock are well deserving the attention of intending purchasers.

LINCOLN SHEEP FOR JAPAN FROM CANADA.—Mr. R. Gibson, of London Township, sold twenty-four Lincoln sheep to Mr. R. B. Copren, the American gentleman who is engaged by the Japanese Government to impart agricultural knowledge to that country.

Messrs. Simon Beattie, W. M. Millar and Hon. M. H. Cochrane will hold a united sale of short-horns, horses, sheep and swine in Toronto, on Wednesday, June 16th. About 50 short-horns will be offered.

Hon. D. Christie will offer between 40 and 50 head of short-horns at public auction, on Wednesday, the 23rd of June.

The Messrs. Dawes, of Lachine, near Montreal, will offer for sale 35 head of Ayrshires, on Thursday, June 17th.

The Executor's Sale of stock of the late John Bellwood, of Willow Lodge, Newcastle, will take place on Thursday, the 17th of June. This sale will be without reserve. Thirty head of short-horns, Cotswold sheep, Berkshire swine and draught horses will be sold.

J. R. Martin, of Cayuga, on Thursday, June 3rd, will sell about 30 head of short-horns; also, Berkshires, Cotswolds, &c.

W. Douglas, of Seneca, has a sale of 40 short-horn cattle on Wednesday, the 2nd of June.

Agricultural Mutual Insurance Co.

This company, established in this city by Mr. Alex. McDonald as Manager, and Mr. C. Willson as President, has been a most beneficial institution for the farmers. The business has been conducted in the most honorable manner, plainly, openly and for the benefit of farmers. We feel quite safe in saying that this institution has saved the farmers of Canada hundreds of thousands of dollars. The benefits accruing from it, not only in the payments of losses sustained by fire (they have paid such honorably and promptly where incendiarism and dishonesty were not practiced), but great good has been done by this society in keeping down extortionate rates which would otherwise have been charged, as other companies have often tried to induce this Board to raise their rates to enable the profits to be increased.

The farmers have all the benefits in this company. The business is directed by farmers; no large salaries are paid; every one has to work for the pay he receives. Of course a great many are employed to attend to the business, as between 40,000, and 50,000 policies are in force, and these are distributed over the whole of Canada. The clerks are under the Board, which is composed of farmers; the Board have no profits from it except their pay for attending monthly meetings, which is only enough to defray their time and expenses. The travelling agents only get their small percentage, which is no more than sufficient to pay them.

Again, this company has in a great measure kept out many of the insurance companies whose sole interest is to make money for the stockholders.

From the economical way in which the Society is carried on, small salaries and no profits to be divided among shareholders, this company is able to insure at rates called impossible by competing rivals.

The business of the Company is scattered over the whole Dominion.

We say to our subscribers, if you have not joined a township insurance company and wish to insure your buildings, that we know of no better, safer or cheaper company to insure in than this one.

PRIZES.—When subscribers are entitled to a prize they should state so in their letters, and what prize they choose, otherwise no prizes are forwarded, as we cannot possibly be judges of subscribers' preferences.

GRANGES.—Several communications regarding the Granges and their operations have reluctantly been laid over till next issue, when we hope to give a review of the Order, which will embrace answers to our correspondents.

The Patrons of Husbandry hold a picnic at Port Stanley, on the 2nd of June. We believe the farmers of Middlesex also intend holding their annual picnic at the same place on the same day.

A meeting of the London Division Grange will be held on the day following, (June 3rd,) in Morrell Temple Rooms, London.

A subscriber asks us to give a description of the best way to attach three horses to a plow. We



give the accompanying cut as as good a guide as we know of.

We have much pleasure in thanking thousands of our subscribers for the prompt manner in which they have remitted their annual subscription, for their kind words of praise, and their many valuable suggestions. There are some—more we think than there should be—who are still in arrears. From these we will be delighted to receive a remittance as soon as possible. We are advocating the cash principle; our Granges are doing the same, and we depend on our subscribers to carry out the principles advocated.

Subscribers who wish to discontinue will oblige us exceedingly by remitting arrears and giving us the proper notice.

The Apiary.

A. C. ATWOOD - EDITOR.

Questions About Bee-Keeping.

A reader of the *Witness* requests us to publish the recent meeting of the North-eastern Bee-keeper's Association at Utica, N. Y., as follows:

The *Herald* of that city says one of the most interesting exercises of the convention was the "question drawer," which was expounded by Mr. Van Deusen, with the aid of Capt. Hetherington and Mr. L. C. Root. These questions and replies are of such particular value to the bee-keeper that we print this part of the proceedings *verbatim*.

Question. Is there any profit in buckwheat flour? **Answer.** Yes.

Q. Can broods be raised successfully in March and April? **A.** It is best to have no brood started until the weather is sufficiently warm and settled to enable them to start a full brood. The presence of a sufficient amount of pollen must be assured.

Q. What effect has the shape and size of the hive on freezing or on the amount of honey stored? **A.** Very little, provided they have plenty of accessible room and the proper temperature is maintained in the hive.

Q. The best mode of caring for bees after they are sent out in spring and before the honey harvest? **A.** Feed and keep warm.

Q. Will bees store enough more honey in boxes with communications from box to box to pay the extra trouble, than to have the boxes separate? **A.** Yes, in small boxes, but not in large.

Q. How many swarms should be kept in one yard? **A.** This depends upon the quantity of honey-producing plants; from fifty to a hundred swarms.

Q. What is the best size of the brood department? **A.** Let it vary according to the quantity of bees.

Q. About what amount of honey is sold in New York city, yearly? **A.** About 400,000 pounds.

Q. What is the most suitable package to put extracted honey in for market? **A.** This depends upon the market in which it is to be sold. In some cases it sells best in bulk or by the pound net weight; in other cases in glass jars.

Q. What is the proper thickness for a single box? **A.** Two to two and a fourth inches.

Q. How near to the ground ought hives to be placed during the summer? **A.** Four or five inches.

Q. Will using the extractor on comb containing eggs and larvae produce any injury; if so, at what time most? **A.** There is no injury, unless larvae are thrown from their cells by too rapid motion.

Q. Is it advisable to undertake to Italianize your apiary when you are surrounded by black bees? **A.** It certainly is, if in a locality that produces much white honey.

Q. How long from the time the egg is deposited in a worker cell before it cannot be changed to a queen cell? **A.** Would not use it older than the third day after hatching.

Q. If a queen's wing is clipped about half off by a trusty, experienced hand, is there any injury; if any, what, and in what way? **A.** There is no injury.

Q. Making an examination of my stocks in January, I found some stocks from which the honey was leaking. What is the reason? **A.** This condition is found only in hives that have been so exposed to the cold as to crack the combs with frost, or in hives that are so poorly ventilated as to retain the moisture and sour the honey.

In swarming, the queen is not always foremost; it is frequently, or rather generally, not till after the departure of a considerable number of workers that she makes her appearance; and when she does come, it is with a timid, irresolute air, as if she were borne along, almost against her will, by the torrent that streams out of the hive—for she often turns on the threshold, as about to re-enter, and in fact frequently does so, but cannot long resist the opposing crowd.—*Feburier*.

BEE STINGS.—If a person is stung while among bees he rarely escapes with one sting. The first sting is but the signal for attack. It does not remain a personal matter between the offending party and any particular bee; the whole community are "eager for the fray." This general attack, if any, is variously accounted for. Some assert that a person who is not scared while among bees is not likely to be stung at all by them; that fright provokes stinging, and that even one sting from some offended bee producing fright, other members of the hive sting because he is frightened. A celebrated bee-keeper, who has closely observed the character of the bees, declares that when one of the hive has deposited his sting the rest, smelling the poison of the sting, go and follow suit, prompted by some mysterious concert of action, without regard to the offence of party or the frightened state.

EXPERIMENTING TO SOME PURPOSE.—G. W. Lloyd, the architect, desired some fire-proof brick the other day for the floor of a new barn, but when he learned the cost per thousand he determined to experiment a little with some common brick. He procured a few hundred and had them delivered on the vacant lot on Michigan Avenue, between Third and Fourth Streets, where they were placed in a large vat, such as the pavers use in which to heat their tar, and allowed to absorb the hot tar for four hours. In that length of time the bricks were as black as the tar itself, and soaked full of it, and when allowed to cool off it was found that their solidity had been greatly increased. A reporter of the *Free Press* struck one of the bricks eight or ten hard blows before he could even break a piece off, and to strike one with a hammer is like striking a rock. Subjected to the same tests as the regular fire-proof bricks, the tar-soaked brick came out finely. To determine their fire-proof qualities, a number of the bricks were passed into a blazing furnace, and, after a severe test, they came out without a flaw or a crack; in fact, they were rendered stronger and tougher for the baking, and it was almost impossible to break one. Mr. Lloyd will use the brick thus prepared for the stables, and will then, if the Council grants permission, lay enough of them at some prominent crossing to test their merits for street paving.