

# The Canadian Bee Journal.

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## OUR OWN APIARY.

ODDS AND ENDS.

WE drove out to one of our apiaries the other day, and on arrival noticed that the bees were flying around in several places where no hives stood, that the bees appeared to be lost, and from their peculiar actions felt sure that some hives had been removed from their old stands. We called to the attendant in the yard, and asked him why he had removed the hives from their old stands after the bees had marked the location. A large number of hives had been sold out of this apiary, leaving only a few scattered ones on one side, that were not suitable for shipment and he said he wanted to put the hives with the others, as he did not like to see a few straggling hives about the yard, and had placed them in rows, to make all look neat and business-like. We then explained to him the danger of moving hives instantly from one part of the apiary to another; that they must be moved a short distance first, increasing distance day by day until they are all placed where wanted. We may say that the attendant in this yard is a very industrious student, and that this is his first year; he would not even allow a weed or blade of grass to grow in the yard, and he was anxious to have the hives look nice and straight in the rows. This reminds us of a visit we made to another apiary about thirty miles away. As we entered we noticed bees flying about where there were no hives. We also noticed on the side of the driving shed, which was about twelve feet high, bunches of bees, like miniature swarms, clustering in various places, beside large numbers in the cracks, and others

flying about acting very much like robbers. On close examination we found the cause. For a year or two some hives had been kept up in this shed, and as they were very awkward to handle and extract up there, the owner concluded to move them down to the yard along with the rest. Many of the bees returned to their old stands, thus accounting for the bees flying around and clustering as they did. The hives which had been removed were, on examination, found to contain very few old bees, in fact so depopulated were they that the entrances had to be made very small. We also noticed several places about the yard where bees were flying around hunting for their hives, where only a few hours before they had been accustomed to go, but the hives had disappeared, they knew not where. This moving of hives from one part of the yard to another without any precaution, other than picking them up and carrying them away, and setting them down again in another place, should not be; it simply means serious injury to the colonies, and sometimes entire loss, depending on the season of the year.

Fruit bloom is quite over with us now. Mountain ash has yielded plentifully. Thorns are just beginning to bloom, some of the trees look from a distance as if they were covered with snow, so great is the profusion of bloom. The thorn bloom just fills the gap between fruit bloom and white clover. In locations where there are large numbers of thorn trees, it seems to us the yield from that source alone should be quite large, as they produce large quantities of honey, and the yield lasts about two weeks. The other day our students had quite a field day, as we succeeded in getting an old box hive to transfer. The owner brought it fifteen miles; we transferred it free of charge, and he took it home with him the same day. We