

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

THE WEATHER AND OTHER MATTERS

THE prospect at present for an average crop of light honey in this locality is very slim. We are passing through a very severe drought, having had no rain of any account for six weeks or more. As a honey season the spring and summer so far has been a peculiar one. It has been both favorable and unfavorable—favorable during the whole period from early spring for the development of bees and building up, and unfavorable for surplus honey. There has been a steady but moderate flow of honey ever since the soft maple bloom, but not one single day I would call first-rate for in-gathering. The clover season opened about June 10th during the dry weather and is closing prematurely in the continued drought. The fall crop may be abundant but my No. 1 honey will be a light crop this season.

COMB HONEY.

In answer to the question, "which is the more profitable, the production of comb or extracted honey?" I have always contended that the production of both conjointly is more profitable than the production of either exclusively—i.e. in all cases where the crop is sold wholly or largely in the home market. Where the whole crop is shipped in bulk to a foreign market the case is different, and the exclusive production of the one or the other may then possibly become more profitable under certain other circumstances than the joint production. As I have always sold my honey in the home market I have always produced both kinds.

For the successful production of comb honey about four primary conditions are requisite, viz.: Strong colonies at the commencement of the honey yield, proper hives and manipulation, high general temperature, and abundant yield of nectar. These four conditions will secure the comb honey in beauty and abundance. Not having had proportionally enough last season for my trade I had laid myself out for the production of relatively more this season, but the apiarist proposes and the weather disposes. The three first named conditions were and are present with me, but the fourth being lacking the result will to that extent be affected. It occasionally happens during the swarming season that two swarms persist in going together, and I frequently let them remain together (taking away one queen, of course,) give them a suitable hive, and then run them for comb honey for all they are worth. But what is a suitable hive you ask. A small brood chamber (to which confine the queen) and plenty of room above for sections. To-day I overhauled a joint colony of

this kind which had been put in about 15 days ago and removed 61 finished sections from above and about ten pounds of extracted honey from below. This would be nothing extra in an abundant flow, but it is really excellent work considering the present circumstances.

"AMATEUR EXPERT."

I hope he has not put by his lively quill for he is—

Expert in wit, and war, and wisdom's ways,
I fearlessly assert;
Well-skilled in fence, and fair in field,
Is "Amateur Expert."

Polemic, playful, placid, plumb,
Let no one controvert;
A Britisher of brim bee-lore
Is "Amateur Expert."

A coat-tail longing for a lark,
With guardian on th'alert,
To bounce 300 lbs. or so
Of Mason-work inert.

But I must cut this rhyming short or brother Clarke's laureate laurels would be placed in jeopardy.

Now seriously I, for one, confess to a considerable liking for our unknown trans-Atlantic cousin, and would be pleased to see his contributions to the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL continued.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

Selby, Ont., July 8th, 1887.

Mr. Pettit Called Upon to Explain.

ON page 172, C. B. J., Mr. McKnight says: "The Board decided that it was not competent for them to expend the grant as Mr. Pettit desired," to which Mr. P. replies with great emphasis on page 214 "that the Board did nothing of the kind whatever. I did not even discuss the propriety or impropriety of so using the grant. * * That is one."

Again on page 132, C. B. J., Mr. Pettit says: "The Guelph, the Parkhill and the Brantford, B. K. As. have all passed resolutions recently, expressing their desire to have the grant used in opening a market," and referring to these resolutions on page 56 *Canadian Honey Producer* he says: "I note with a good deal of interest the resolutions passed by a number of the beekeepers' conventions lately, relating to the putting of our honey upon the British market. I would respectfully remind these many friends that it is no easy matter to run against the decision of our representative men, the directors of the O. B. K. A."

From these contradictions by Mr. Pettit we can only infer that a decision was reached adverse to the association's using its annual grant in opening a market. Will Mr. Pettit please explain? Many of us have looked in vain for