

prevent robbing; the assistants in the various yards have found the bees more inclined to rob the last few days than ever before.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### CAN BEES HEAR?

IT seems rather presumptuous to take views opposite to those of some of the great lights of apiculture, but if they get shining in the wrong direction or not brightly enough, we satellites must needs get agitated. I was not a little surprised to see the negative taken so freely in answer to Query No. 17, and the others so doubtful—except Friend Doolittle. I cannot help believe bees hear. A strict economy pervades nature. There is a reason and a use for everything. Because we cannot discern a use we must not deny it for progress will soon overtake and explain. That bees have a language no experienced apiarist will question. We have been taught that language by observation, noting the sound, then the action, (and some of the actions were very impressive). When we learned that language they were not talking to us—we overheard them. Then for what and to what were those different sounds directed? Would it not be difficult to imagine that they were not for themselves, seeing that certain sounds express certain feelings? As it is often essential that bees report new conditions without delay and as they cannot always smell what is going on, or see around corners, I would feel sorry for them right away if I thought they could not hear their own dialect and were forced to extravagantly adopt other means to report where one would do. Now, if bees have a language, so have dumb brutes. We can tell by the sound made when the mother calls her young—when the young calls its mother, or food—we know the sound of distress, of anger, of welcome, etc. For whom are those sounds intended? For us? No, for their kind; they hear and understand them. Now, suppose, for argument's sake, that cattle could not hear. Could you then imagine anything more ludicrous than a calf bawling for its mother, or the mother, in response to the bellow of distress, running to the rescue of her offspring? In other words would it not seem ridiculous for these dumb brutes to be able to make sounds expressive of their various feelings, (like bees do) if they could not hear them and act by them? It is just as unreasonable for bees to have a nice little language they cannot use themselves. Now, Friend Jones & Co., I just happened to think of the premium on your space, and, though I have given nothing but

theory, must "stop short, never to go again."

C. F. BRIDGMAN.

Bird's Hill, Man., Sept. 3, 1885.

We hope you will "go again" and give us some items about bee-culture in the North-West Territory. We frequently have enquiries about the flora of the country. There is a great deal to be said on both sides of the question as to whether bees hear or not, and it seems only reasonable, as you say, that they should have some kind of language. You will observe, friend B., that we copied the article you wrote on "bee-keeping in Manitoba" in the *North-West Farmer*, and we shall look for more information from you now.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### INTRODUCING UNFERTILIZED QUEENS.

THIS seems to get to haunt bee-keepers. It ought to have been solved definitely either one way or the other long ago. As the question is up for discussion, I will give you my method. You can only wish to introduce such a queen to a queenless hive. It is well known that if a hive has been queenless for two days it will receive a queen cell, adopt it, fasten it in themselves, and in due time it will become the queen of the hive. If I desire to change the queen in a hive and give it a young unfertilized queen, I take away the old queen, destroy her, and leave the hive queenless for two days. Now suppose that, by this means or some other, you have a queenless hive, and have also on hand young unfertilized queens. Take a queen cell, (of which there are always plenty, or should be, preserved for use) trim the upper end of it so thin that the young queen when in it can see through it, even leaving a small hole. Take your young queen, put her head first into the cell, cover over the small end with a thin piece of wax, then insert that cell with queen in it into the hive, just as you would ordinarily insert a queen cell. The bees will at once go to work to fasten it in themselves; in the meantime the queen will eat her way out of the end of the cell you have cut so thin, and the bees will at once receive her just as if she had been hatched in the hive. I have done it many and many a time and never failed. We call it "fooling them in." It is sure and success justifies everything. What do you say to this Mr. Jones? Try it; I will assure you success.

A. H. WALLBRIDGE, JR.

Belleville, Ont.