

E. W. ALEXANDER'S PAPER.

To my brother bee-keepers of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association:

Please accept my thanks for the respect you have shown me in requesting me to address you on this important occasion. It certainly would afford me pleasure to meet you all personally, and thereby become better acquainted, but my health is such that it wholly prevents me from leaving home.

To me it is a pleasing thought that there is no ocean wide enough, or boundary line high enough to prevent us as honey producers from meeting on a common level. May our success be your success, and your interest our interest—not only for the present, but during the lives of our children's children.

Taking it for granted that your methods for securing a surplus of honey from your bees are similar to ours, I therefore wish to call your attention to the importance of a moderate use of the extractor in late spring and early summer, in order to prepare the hive for a large well filled brood nest. After our bees commence to gather nectar in the spring, then old capped honey in the hive is a serious prevention in allowing the queen to spread her brood to the full capacity of the hive. We find it much to our advantage to feed a little warm, thin honey, or sugar syrup, daily, at this season and extract nearly all the capped honey from the hive during the month of May. This gives the queen a chance to fill it with brood, and as a result of this extracting we

have strong full colonies, ready for the first of the clover harvest. This is especially important in producing comb honey. We all know that if bees have two or three inches of capped honey between their brood and supers they are rather slow in filling them, whereas, if the combs are full of brood, from top to bottom, and end to end, our chances are much better in securing a fine surplus. The neglect of using the extractor as I here suggest, has cost many honey producers one half of their expected surplus. This is a bad loss through neglect, but it don't stop here; as the season advances the brood nest continues to grow still smaller, consequently the working force is reduced in size, and they go into winter quarters with mostly old bees, and then spring dwindling, and a general disappointment is the final result of allowing a cramped brood nest the previous summer. Invariably the colonies that give us our large surplus are those that have a large well filled brood nest during the entire season. Granting this to be a fact, it certainly will pay us well to see that the queen of the colony is not restricted for room in any way previous to our surplus harvest.

Then another thing of especial importance, is to produce good honey of fine appearance, that will always sell readily at a fair price, and your customers will be anxious to engage your surplus long before it is ready for market. This matter of quality and appearance is of far more importance than many realize. We have always taken special pains to look after this part of our business

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