

# The Canadian Bee Journal.

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## OUR OWN APIARY.

### FEEDING HONEY FROM CAPPINGS.

**T**HIS Fall after the honey harvest failed we had several extractors full of cappings and the students thought it easier to let the bees pick out the honey than to get it out in any other way, so with a hand-cart they took it from the bee-yard to the factory grounds a distance of about 150 yards, and there spread it out on a large number of hive lids. Then they were at a loss to know how they were going to get the bees over to it, but they soon found that that was the easiest part of all. The operation of putting the cappings into the hive lids had scarcely commenced when a large number of bees came over to investigate, and before long several swarms had started from the apiary to the scene of action. In the bee-yard the air was filled with bees from the hundreds of colonies rushing about over all parts of the yard, even more thickly than if swarms were issuing. The disposition to rob was not seemingly so strong as the desire to find out where the honey mine was located, and as the thousands returned with their precious loads to the various hives it seemed to increase the energy of the rest to secure some too. Just then one of our neighbors happened to be preserving fruit and the house being on a line with the bee-house and factory the bees in passing to and fro caught the odor of the fruit and made a rush for the house. In a few minutes more than a swarm were clustering on the door sash trying to get through the cracks; while those inside flew to the windows and were let out. A mass collected on the sidewalk; but a few from the smoker drove them away.

The whole air was alive with bees trying to enter every building in the neighborhood till they discovered where the sweets were. The lids were covered with bees rushing and tumbling over each other trying to get down to the cappings and it was astonishing to see the rapidity with which they removed the honey. After it was all taken up a little water sprinkled on the cappings furnished a fresh supply. This is an experiment which we would not advise anyone else to try as it seemed to disorganize the bees in the yard for several days, and we think it would have been as well if it had not been given them.

One of our men was employed the other day looking around the entrances of all the hives to see if any queens had died and had been dragged out; for if the ground is kept clean about the entrance to a hive the loss of a queen can be readily ascertained by watching around the entrance. It is a good plan to examine around the hives every day, it is also a good time now whenever the weather is suitable to make winter passage over tops of frames where they are to be wintered outdoors. It is well to do so anyway whether wintered out or indoors, as the few bees that get between the outside ranges of comb might otherwise be lost. If done before cold weather sets in the bees will not be disturbed when they go into winter quarters. Disturb them as little as possible when carrying them from their summer stands to the repository. It is better to have the preparation over as long before cold weather sets in as possible. The earlier in the fall the better in this part, farther south it might be postponed according to season, locality, etc.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.  
**THAT "ORGAN"**

**T**HIS is not the first time that "organs" have caused trouble and botheration. For some time back the name has been in bad odor amongst all independent and liberal minded