

The Apiary of F. A. Gemmell.

After having promised for some months past that I would furnish you with a description of my apiary, I at last have found time to accede to your request, confessing at the same time that I deserve all the names you have of late called me, for my procrastination. Yes, "Old Next Week" is quite an appropriate epitaph to apply to me under the circumstances. I am now,



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however, going to endeavor to make amends for the past by promising to be more prompt in future. The picture was taken about 2 years ago, the apiary at that time consisting of 72 colonies, but at present writing, numbers 115, the greater portion being Italians, the balance, although not so beautiful to look at, are of such a strain as to quite suit me as honey gatherers. The latter statement I think not out of place, especially as the past poor season has given me an average of 65 pounds per colony, spring count. True, my location may have been a factor in securing

this amount, but not sufficiently so to make all the difference, when compared with other apiaries in my vicinity. Seven hundred (700) of this amount was comb, the balance being extracted honey.

Before proceeding further, I would like to state that the picture was taken for the express purpose of sending to the Rev. I. L. Langstroth, the father of modern apiculture, one whom I esteem most highly, which no doubt all apiarists also do, or at least ought to, for the service rendered our pursuit. A copy was therefore sent him, at the time of its first appearance in *Gleanings*, March 15th, 1893, accompanied by a small donation, the same being duly acknowledged by himself, and which is very much prized by me, as also all the correspondence that has passed between us since purchasing my first Italian queen from him in 1881, (probably the first brought into Canada) the price at that time ranging from \$10 to \$25.

If those who have the privilege of viewing the illustration in the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL will look closely, they will have no difficulty in discerning, especially as the hives, in addition to being numbered, are also all named after some prominent apiarist in U. S. and Canada, that the Langstroth observing hive made for me in 1893 occupies a prominent position in the foreground. This hive has contained a colony of bees with the exception of one or two seasons from that period up to the present time, and has had no repairs worthy of mention, except one new roof, and numerous coats of paint during all those 31 years, until the present season, when some alterations were made in order to accommodate it to the modern system of management. This, however, has not altered its appearance, otherwise than it can now be more readily tiered up. It will also be noticed, the outside cases are still on the hives (August) minus the packing which was removed about 1st June, and although this system has advantages in regard to shade, freedom from confusion when the packing is removed, etc. Still I have abandoned the practice, and now take away entirely, as all things considered, I can work to better advantage without them, and at the same time secure as good results.

I have always, and still hope to as long as I am engaged in the pursuit of apiculture, endeavored to keep pace with the times, and any fixtures or appertanances of value, have therefore been added as necessity or convenience in any particular case required. Judgment of course must be exercised in regard to adopting any new fixtures, and consequently I have, or think I have, as few superfluous attachments as the majority of those who endeavor to make apiculture a moderately