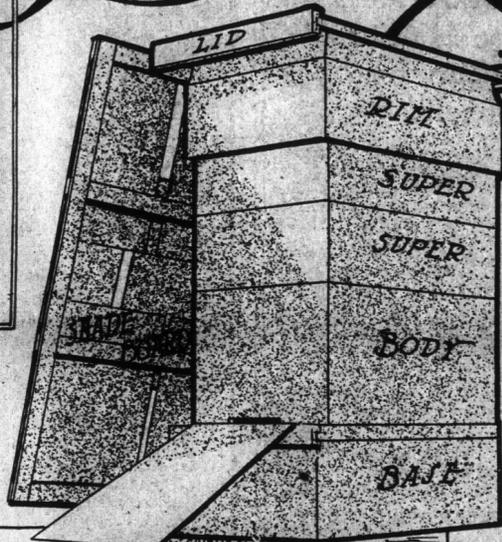


Bee Culture

About the Use of Shade Boards



A Swarm of Bees



About the Use of Shade Boards



Having a Swarm

Mr. E. F. Robinson, of Shawnigan Lake, who very kindly supplied the Colonist with the accompanying photographs, contributed the following article to a recent issue of "Gleanings in Bee Culture":

I have always been an ardent advocate of shade in our hot months. We take our industrious little workers out of some shady forest home or some cool rocky crevice, and compel them to live in the blazing sun, covered by only some 7-8 inch lumber, and think it natural for them to work when the thermometer placed on the hive registers 120 deg. F. Vast numbers of bees cluster outside to save the combs from breaking down, and a great force remain inside to fan and ventilate the hive. This condition is a direct loss to the bee keeper, to say nothing of the torture he is inflicting on those who are so industriously working for his dollars. The material and method of construction of shade boards are of vital importance. I have tried all kinds of material—1-2 inch boards nailed to cleats, but they are too expensive as the mill men charge for inch boards. I have used frames with canvas nailed on, but they are too flimsy, and blow off too freely. I have been using for eight years a board made of builders' lath and shingles that gives me the utmost satisfaction both in cost, durability, and ease of construction.

I use six-foot lath, and cut two three-foot lengths for sides, and four two-foot lengths for cross pieces. I nail these together with inch wire nails. I turn down the nails, and clinch tightly; then nail shingles on, turning the thick end of the shingle to the outside edge of the board, except the single ones. These I put on any way, as it does not matter.

The cost of these boards runs about 10c. apiece, aside from nails and labor. The lath cost, at 40c. per 100, one cent; and the shingles \$3.00 per 1,000, which, with ten inches to the weather, would cover 200 square feet; and as there are six feet of surface in each shade board the cost for shingles is 9c or 10c. complete. My boards made eight years ago are as good today as when they were first made.

Now as to the mode of using them. My hives face the south, as we have a strong local east wind during May and June. At night I walk round and place a shade board on the east side of the hive a little to the front. This shades the entrance up to 11 o'clock. Then I put the board on top of the hive, projecting 1-2 feet over the front. This shades the entrance from the noonday sun till 1 o'clock; then I put the board on the west side of the hive eight or ten inches to the front, where it shades the front and west side till night,

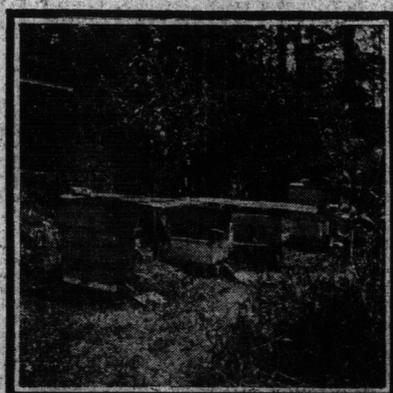
when the boards are shifted over to the east side ready for the morning. This makes three moves a day, and keeps three-fourths of the hive in perfect shade, much to the comfort of the bees, keeping them working and reducing swarming to a minimum. There is thus no loss, but a probable increase in yield of honey. I find these boards a great help in keeping off bad winds in spring by standing them against the hive on the windy side; and just



Robinson's Shade Boards - Back and Front



Shade Board on East Side in the Forenoon



Shade Board on Top of Hive at Mid-day



Shade Board on West Side in Afternoon

now, August 8, they are of great benefit to the bees, as we have a terrible plague of wasps. The entrances have to be contracted, which would make the hives so hot that the bees would cluster out, much to the satisfaction of the wasps. As it is the hives are in shade, and few bees are out in front of the hive.

Some may object to the time it takes to shift the boards. I find it takes just five minutes to shift 25 boards, or 15 for the 25 hives each day, or one hour per hundred. Surely no bee keeper would begrudge giving this small attention. If the hives face the east, only two moves are needed.

Dickens as a Reformer

Dr. W. H. Atherton read a paper on Charles Dickens as a Social Reformer, before the St. James' Literary Society of Montreal the other evening. The great heart of this eminent novelist, as a humorist, the worthy successor of Addison and Fielding, was attracted to the poor, as Dr. Atherton showed, and he was pre-eminently a man whose purpose was to reform existing evils. In an age when the doctrines of "laissez faire" and "survival of the fittest" held perhaps their greatest sway over the British mind, Dickens sounded a trumpet call to humanity to labor charitably among the weak and helpless, and he started a flood of sympathetic endeavor which has risen to great heights.

Dr. Atherton, in his opening remarks, mentioned that he had the honor to teach two of the sons of Charles Dickens in Windsor, and said that Dickens still appealed to a vast and increasing circle of friends with his great works of fiction, and his works adorn many firesides. The verdict of posterity has assured him of a high place as a humorist, moralist and social reformer. In the best sense of the word, he was a novelist with a purpose. Especially to the services of the poor did he devote his life. His works are literature. His mission was to survey life as a cheerful philosopher. The wish of his genius was to illuminate the dark corners of life by throwing the genial light around them. His was the gift to turn the prose of humanity into idealism, and his books do not disgust nor vitiate the taste. The household virtues of heart and home, self-devotion, health and cheerfulness. These were within his province to depict. He saw good in everything. In life he was the champion of the poor and the outcast.

Charles Dickens, he said, was by nature trained as a social reformer. Grinding poverty and stern circumstances such as surrounded his youth might have crushed a less strong man, and when he came to fight for the poor he was equipped to strike a blow for them with most telling force. Dr. Atherton quoted authorities to prove that Dickens was a great social reformer in his day. He worked reforms in prison administration as at Newgate. He did more to elevate the English poor than any English statesman. He had a sympathetic in-

tuition, he had a first hand knowledge of the points under discussion, and he was thus enabled to surpass any parliamentary theories on the questions at issue. His pen was the instrument that revealed the rarity of Christian charity. If Dickens came to Montreal today he would be one of her best citizens. He would at once join the Civic Administration League, and other organizations of altruistic activity. In Oliver Twist Dickens brought forth the evils of slum life. In Nicholas Nickleby was shown the exploitation of children in schools such as Dotheby's Hall. In David Copperfield he showed the evils of child labor. Thus, in writing his books, Dickens started out with preconceived notions of reform. His Christmas carol had a wonderful effect. It sings the old Christian lessons of love, benevolence, and goodwill to all Christian people. Dickens could never cease urging the cause of the poor. In the last years of his life he was pleading their case. Something else existed in life, he taught, than dollars and diamonds.

The heart, the human nature beneath his characters, are everlasting, and hence he surpassed his contemporary Thackeray, who was more of an artist, a master of style, and literary craftsmanship and scholarship.

Dickens' methods were illustrated by Dr. Atherton. How far was he a socialist? he asked. The teachings of Dickens could hardly be placed in line with socialist doctrine as expounded by its orthodox teachers. So far as concerned the community of property, for example, he was outside of that pale. The danger of sociological writers was to take the poor in a lump. In doing so there was a danger of studying them afar off and legislating for them en bloc. Dickens, on the contrary, was a student of individuals, through which he worked. He brought before the eyes of the public the struggle between the poor and the rich such as no other man has done, and the task he had before him and before the public was how to harmonize these two classes. Citations from the Christmas carol were given. First comes hard, grasping, covetous Scrooge, and in this character Dickens had for his purpose the changing of his character by bringing him through a mass of experiences that brought

him in sympathy with the poor. By reading an extract from this story he showed that Dickens went far with the modern socialist and philanthropist in placing the care of the weak outside of the parents. Therefore men nowadays bound themselves together to ascertain how far they could supplement the parents.

In the "Chimes" he taught that you must go down and see the poor, and not treat them in a far-off mathematical way. Then the extreme severity of the laws for minor offences in his days were also exhibited in a light that stirred humanity. "Give us in mercy better homes, give us better food, give us kinder laws, and don't set jail before us everywhere we turn," was the cry of one of his brain-children. Without being a household economist, Dickens put his finger on the right spot—"Give us better homes; better food."

LITTLE SISTER

I know a girl of presence fresh and fair,
She lies abed year-long and so has lain
For half a lifetime; flower-sweet the air;
The room is darkened to relieve her pain.

There is no hope held out of relieving her,
You could not blame her if she turned her face
Sullen unto the wall, and did demur
From further breathing in her prison place.

Not so; her sick bed is a throne, wherefrom
She doth most royally her favors grant;
Thither the needy and the wretched come,
She is at home to every visitant.

They call her Little Sister; for her heart
Goes out to each that takes her by the hand
In sisterly devotion 'tis her part
To feel, to succour, and to understand.

—Richard Burton in Scribner's.

"Shan't I play you the woolen underwear record?"
"Is that the name of the piece?"
"No, we just call it that because it sounds so scratchy."—Houston Post.

Louise—"Is your new cook troublesome?"
Julia—"Troublesome! She couldn't act worse if she were a near relative."—Harper's Weekly.

Naval Base at Rosyth

Constructional work on the new naval dockyard at Rosyth, on the Firth of Forth, has made very satisfactory progress during the year, says the Standard. At the same time it has not been quite so great as was anticipated or reported. Various factors have contributed to this result, the most important being the unexpected difficulty which arose in connection with the sinking of the immense concrete monoliths. Unfortunately, running sand was met with in quite unexpected quantity, this naturally retarding very seriously the rate of sinking. The unfavorable character of the weather also interfered with the progress for some weeks. During the height of a recent storm a long stretch of staging erected in connection with the sinking of the monoliths was destroyed, while the seas also made serious breaches in the earthworks which had been erected to exclude the water. Then the outside electric plant was badly damaged, cables and wires being cut, poles blown down, and lamps destroyed.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, the amount of work accomplished has almost doubled in value as compared with that done during the previous year. Up to the end of 1910 the number of men employed on the works was about 1700, while at present the pay sheets, including those of sub-contractors engaged in erecting the electrical power station and other buildings, embrace nearly 2500 men. But the principal factor in securing this marked advance on the previous year's results has been machinery, and not men. Although the bonus of £700 a week which the contractors are to receive for such saving in time as they may effect seems a substantial sum, it must be stated per contra that Messrs. Easton, Gibb & Son, the contractors, have spent well nigh fabulous sums on procuring machinery and undertaking temporary work, such as the construction of earth banks, in order that the dockyard may be placed at the service of the Admiralty at the earliest possible date.

The greater part of the constructional work in connection with the submarine base has been completed during the year, and almost the whole of the granolithic coping on the

massive walls has now been placed in position. The boat race slip, situated near to the outward extremity of the submarine basin, has been finished. Excavation in connection with the construction of the two graving docks is well advanced, and a beginning with the concrete portion of the work should be made before long. One portion of the operations which was expected by the Admiralty to be deferred till nearly the completion of the undertaking, but which has been begun within the last six months, is the construction of the entrance lock at the southeastern extremity of the basin. In order to get on with that work now, instead of waiting until the sea had been excluded by the basin walls, the contractors threw out a temporary earth bank of semi-circular shape to give them sufficiently dry area wherein to operate. The embankment is now practically finished, and part of the constructional work of the lock begun.

During the year a labor exchange has been started at Rosyth. So far as Messrs. Easton, Gibb & Son are concerned, it has proved very advantageous, and as the firm now take on no workman unless he bears an exchange ticket, it prevents men roaming without let or hindrance all over the works. Over 10,000 men have passed through the exchange since it was opened, and of these 9000 have been engaged at the Rosyth Dockyard. As the number may seem incredible, it may be explained that there is a constant change among the lower classes of navy workers, and that on an average Messrs. Easton, Gibb & Son have vacancies for about 50 men each day.

The contractors are confident that next year they will more than maintain the rate of progress of the previous year. More men will be required as the work advances. If 1912 does not witness the inauguration of the much more gigantic undertaking which is in contemplation for the large stretch of foreshore between the historic Rosyth Castle and the Ferry Toll, it is a prophecy amounting almost to a certainty that the present contractors will be offered the construction of a third graving dock, for which there is plenty of space on the western extremity of the works between the inner wall of the basin and the foreshore, at a cost of something like £300,000.

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