

This spring I sent two down to Valleyfield and started with four. June 3rd first swarm, on the 4th another, and so on up till yesterday when the last two came off. Friend Pringle says he is a clipper, if he had been here he would have had considerable clipping to do or else murder the young innocents, as from June 3rd till July 21st I have had 18 new swarms. I ran out of hives and had to make shift with any kind I could cobble up, till now am at my wits end. Seven colonies working in sections, have taken off 54 sections and some of the colonies are crying out for want of room, and a good many of the sections on the hives are full, waiting a further supply. All swarms are of good size and will have no difficulty in getting into good condition for winter, but such swarming I never saw or heard of and all of them doing well.

Some laughable incidents took place during swarming. Some of them would have been the better of a clipper. One day, being absent at Newburg on duty, a swarm came off, a neighbor's boy undertook the hiving of it, but somehow he got them roused and they started off, so when I got back bees were gone and boy disconsolate. I said, "never mind, go hunt them up and if you can find them I will give them to you for yourself to start you in bee-keeping." So off he started and late in the afternoon found them in a chimney of a two-story house flying out and around quite lively, having also taken part possession of a bedroom stove-pipe hole leading into it. What a job we had getting them out will long be remembered, but out we got them and they are doing well. Boy is now deep in bee lore and anxious to learn. I received the queen from R. E. Smith, Tilbury Centre, but never having had any experience in exchanging queens went to work with some doubts as to results. Seeking for a queen is something like getting bees out of a chimney 30 or 40 feet high, not an easy task. I got hive all apart right enough and examined each card with utmost care but no queen. Kept at it for over an hour and at last found her and have made the exchange all right. Could you not put in a few hints as to the best way and the best time to find a queen, there may be other novices as well as me would like to know.

JOHN CRICHTON.

Napanee, July 22.

F. A. GEMMILL.—The flow of honey has not been very profuse of late, although steady. Thistles are doing splendidly and sections are being filled nicely. I promise you a longer report next time, my excuse at present being that I am too busy and I fear also a little too late.

Stratford.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

A Glass Hive in a Store Window.

I HAVE a full working colony in a glass sided hive in my store window, the bees fly out through a small hole above the plate glass and work as well as if placed in the yard. For three days they have been busy on bass-wood. At present I have exposed to view a card of hatching brood, and it is amusing to hear the remarks and watch the delight of the crowd outside as bee after bee hatches. The guessing and deliberate assertions of some on-lookers are beyond imagination. Sometimes I display comb building, sometimes eggs and larvae, twice I have shown the queen in the act of laying. Once a week at least I give a public exhibition of bee handling in the window, at which times the sidewalk is completely blocked by my crowd of spectators. This is the third summer now for this and the interest is as great as ever—all day long there are persons watching and talking about the bees. I am asked some very strange questions.

G. B. JONES.

Toronto.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

RAMBLES.

YOUR experiences noted in the last week's JOURNAL were very similar to mine. First.—I, (or rather *we* for my wife always helps me) had a large swarm come out, we knew they had a clipped queen, but she did not come with the bees. We opened the hive to find the cause and found her balled on the bottom board. After releasing her we removed the old hive and placed a new one in its place and when the bees returned we let the old queen go in in the usual way and they did as well as any other. We never saw the like before and don't know why they balled her. Second.—While extracting on Tuesday last we found two fine queen cells in the upper story, on one of the lower corners of a card, no other signs of brood above the metal. Both queens came out before we extracted the card and they were very fine yellow ones too. We used them both. The yellow bees we like far the best, though we don't see that they are any better to gather honey, but they are far nicer to handle, and their looks give great pleasure to the lover of the art of bee-keeping.

Bees have swarmed with us rather too much, but with queens all clipped we can manage to keep increase within bounds, but like poor men's children, they will come. Two swarms would go together and we let them, and they are the chaps that get the honey when there is any.