

Apropos of this question of feeding. In the early part of May we met Mr. J. W. Clark of Cainsville, and on enquiring about his bees, he replied that he thought they were doing well. We asked if he had examined any of the colonies. He replied that he had not. We pointed out that brood-rearing had been very heavy and there might possibly be a shortage of stores. On arriving home he examined several colonies and immediately telephoned us that honey stores were entirely exhausted, notwithstanding the fact that he had fed abundantly last fall. He immediately fed sugar syrup. He then journeyed to one of his neighbors and made the same enquiry. The reply he got was that they were doing splendidly. Never was better. This, of course, from external indications. An examination was made, and some were found to be absolutely without a bit of honey. The bees would have been dead in a few days. What did feeding do in this case? If feeding is a necessary evil, then let us embrace the evil. Better live bees than dead ones.

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A Toronto wholesale house has sent out a post card to all the bee-keepers of Ontario which reads as follows:

"We will esteem it a favor if you will state on a post card, prospects you have for honey crop, extracted and comb, quantity and quality compared with other seasons, and also your ideas of price f.o.b. your station, the former put up in sixty pound tins, crated, and the latter twelve sections to a case with glass front. Your prompt reply will oblige. Any information given will be cheerfully reciprocated."

The above is a sample of the cool, calculated and bare-faced impudence with which some business men approach what they are pleased to call the "farmer." The Ontario bee-keeper is asked to place these gentlemen in possession of information worth many dollars to them, at his own expense—he is to supply the card

and postage—and receives the assurance that it "will be cheerfully reciprocated." And what will be the manner of the reciprocation? If replies are obtained, as they expect, and as they have received them in the past, a very careful calculation will be made of the honey crop. Possessing this information they will reply to those forwarding the card, in a manner somewhat as follows:

"We find on summing up our various reports on the honey crop that there has been a very fair take of honey, and prices are expected to be easy. We will be pleased to take the quantity you offer, but it will be necessary for you to come down on your price. Kindly let us know the lowest price you will take for the lot. We have a quantity offered at a much lower figure than your quotation. Yours, etc."

This will be the nature of the reciprocation, (judging from past years), for your information sent at your own expense. Formerly they sent a card for reply. This year they are economizing and shifting the expense upon the bee-keepers. Let us make a brief calculation of what they are saving. It is stated by our Agricultural department that there are 5,000 bee-keepers in Ontario. Let us assume that they write to only one-half of them. Two thousand five hundred official post cards will cost \$25. They suppose, of course, and rightly, that no bee-keeper is small enough to refuse to spend one cent to make reply. Thus they will get valuable information as to crop conditions for nothing, from the very men whose interests it is to withhold just such information—and they get it free of postage, too! Our advice to our readers is to withhold any reply to this request, at least until after the honey crop committee makes its report. We have no hesitation in saying that it will mean many hundreds of dollars to the bee-keepers of Ontario if this is done.

Mr. Isaac Balmer, of Brantford, a proud possessor of a large apiary, enjoys the unique distinction of being the first Canadian bee-keeper to use this machine for going to and from out apiaries. On Sunday, July 10, he had the pleasure of a call from Mr. E. J. Evoy, accompanied by Mr. E. J. Evoy and one of their sons. They left Brantford about 12 o'clock and made the run of about thirty miles in quick time without mishap. Mr. Balmer has gone very extensively into bee-keeping and is confident that the investment in the machine is well repaid. He can make quick work of his yards, carrying all his bees to and forth. By the removal of the old and the substitution of a new one, he is able to carry out his plan. His visit was a very enjoyable one and he promised to repeat it. The *Canadian Bee Journal* reaches the subscriber's door with the subscription mark, our respect a similar call from our readers. Meantime we must be satisfied with distance walking—but we hope.

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Referring to our objection to the American frame hives, the American says:

"R. F. Holtermann and I are not agreed of hives. Mr. Holtermann says a large hive (a 12-frame) is much better than an 8-frame. Hurley says:

"We do not hesitate to say that Mr. Holtermann in this state of mind is too large to win too large for spring; it is fall. There is, in our opinion, a 'barn' room for the bees to necessary temperature."

There is just a possibility that Mr. Holtermann might say: "To a 12-frame is too large; but better than a 'barny' than too small," but not probable; and not at that he will agree with Mr. Hurley. The latter says: "We would mend anything larger than frames."