

He felt as though he must pay his debts instead of buying luxuries, and that was honest and square.

Just for this reason, thousands of children and families will go without honey and strawberries, unless they produce them. Even if they are not in debt, they may be short of money, and berry time will slip by and they will not have any.

Now, let us take human nature as we find it, and urge every farmer to produce his own honey.

Floyd, Texas.

From American Bee Journal.

Imbedding Wire by Electricity.

W. E. DAGES.

PLACE the wired frame over a smooth straight board, a trifle smaller than the frame, until the wire is $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch (or half the thickness of heavy foundation) above the board from end to end, then place the sheet of foundation on the wire; let a current of electricity pass through the wire, from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ second, when the foundation will drop to the board, and the wire will be imbedded as perfectly as though it grew there. The colder the foundation the better. The battery I use for imbedding wire is an ordinary plunge battery—one I made myself from refuse electric-light carbons. The battery complete cost me 10 cents, and a like amount was invested in the acids. The current is strong enough to heat a No. 39 wire, 6 feet long, to 200° or 250° Fabr. If I had much wiring to do, I could rig up a table where one man, after the frames were wired, could imbed from 5 to 18 frames per minute.

Morris, Ills.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

The O.B.K.A. a Failure.

DEAR EDITOR,—While at the annual meeting in London, I was attacked with la grippe, from the effects of which I am still confined to my room; but I am now slowly recovering. Being unwell during the three days of the meeting, I was not in much of a mood to get up and take part in the several debates, (even had I been a good speaker) that took place, the same as some of the long winded gentlemen, who threw out such cutting remarks about me, and who had to be called to order by our worthy President. I certainly admit that the O. B. K. A. owes much to the gentleman referred to; but sometimes when a man feels and knows that, he gets beside himself a little.

I was present at every session during the meeting, and from my point of view, the whole thing was of very little importance to the majority of bee-keepers, who come from near and far to learn something in practical bee-keeping; excepting the paper read by Mr. Myers, on "Rendering old comb," and the discussion that followed, and Mr. Smith's paper on "Apiarian Exhibits."

W. J. BROWN.

Chard, Feb., 11th, 92.

From Gleanings.

Ants, Plants, and Bees.

CURIOUS WAYS IN NATURE'S ECONOMY.

THE following, sent us by Mr. P. H. Baldensperger, our correspondent in the Holy Land, is a translation made by him from a German periodical. It contains so many points of interest, well authenticated, that we believe our readers will be pleased and benefited by its perusal.

It is a well-known fact, that plants offer to bees, butterflies, and flies, the delicate nectar. In return, the insects unconsciously fertilize the flowers by carrying the pollen from one to another. But very often the insects, forgetting their duty, instead of creeping into the flowers simply cut open the flower outside the corolla, where the nectar is deposited, thus carrying away the sweet without touching the anthers, and so omit the fertilization. The bumble-bee finds it a good deal easier to cut open the tube of a red clover blossom than to creep into the bottom of the flower about $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch deep. Darwin found almost every flower of a kind of heather, *Erica tetralix*, cut open in this way, and the honey carried off. But this way of robbing, contrary to nature's design, is very tiring too, as is reported by Prof. Magnus, who observed bees on the lion's mouths (*Antirrhinum majus*, L.) trying the experiment, but they could not hold their position long on account of the evenness. They stopped only a few seconds and had to fly further, while otherwise they would stay a minute or two inside the flowers, and by degrees they found plenty inside, and would again try to cut open the plant. Quite a number of tropical plants have a special preventive system against such culprits. According to Dr. Burch, of the Botanical Garden in Buitenzorg, Java, many plants have ant-guards against these robbers. Plants and ants are on friendly terms, as is known by divers kinds of South American trees which have numbers of protecting ants at their disposal, and they are fed liberally, and are ready to fight the leaf-cut-