

# The Canadian Bee Journal

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## NOTES AND COMMENTS

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### Feeding of Sweetened Water From Cappings.

In December C. B. J. the writer commented on Alexander's opinion as to quality of honey vinegar made from the washing of cappings, and although a very serious objection to Mr. Alexander's plan of feeding sweetened water from cappings came to my mind at the time, for want of space I did not mention it. I refer to the danger of scattering foul brood through the apiary. Mr Holtermann has stated the case so tersely in *Gleanings*, I cannot do better than copy what he says. After quoting a correspondent who had written that Alexander's plan was a "ray of sunshine," Mr. Holtermann says: "Thanks! Not for me until foul brood is no more in the world. One known or unknown diseased colony in the apiary may infect all the sweet water, and 'the ray of sunshine' become a very thunder-cloud to break over your head. I have known large apiaries ruined by one dose of feeding back honey. To feed back honey is unwise and dangerous. To feed back honey from cappings increases the danger of infection." Some may say that they are sure there is no

foul brood among their bees. While this may be so, if there is any foul brood in the vicinity, I doubt if we can ever be positive in making claims like that, and personally I prefer to preface such claims with "not to my knowledge." To illustrate what I mean, let me give the following experience: Four years ago a yard of bees was for sale near us, and, in company with the inspector, we visited the apiary and inspected every colony, thoroughly examining every comb. Although we found a few colonies diseased, yet I decided to take the risk of buying 34 very strong, healthy colonies. As it was near the first of June, I felt reasonably sure that no disease would break out in the healthy colonies, particularly as no robbing had taken place. However, I decided to keep a close watch, and towards the close of the clover flow I found the genuine article in four colonies. At the close of the season I examined all again and found nothing, but the following spring, in fruit bloom, I found slight traces of disease in two colonies. Needless to say, I would likely have rued the matter bitterly if I had washed out the cappings and fed the sweetened water to all the bees. While my other two yards are "above suspicion," yet I wouldn't think of such a thing as feeding them any honey back, the benefits gained being not proportionate to the risks involved.

### Crating Sixty-pound Tins For Shipping

Possibly all dealers prefer to have the 60-pound cans crated. To be sure,