

a hive, the frames should be removed and examined, if there is any inclination to build crooked it may then be corrected, and there often will be in hives that are not properly constructed, i. e., not scientifically made. It may not be out of place to remark here that moveable comb hives are often brought into disrepute by parties purchasing from those persons who make hives to sell, and yet do not understand what a hive should be. Those who are entirely ignorant of the nature and habits of the bee are quite unfit to make moveable comb hives, which require to be very exact, and the measurements scientifically correct. Others, again, who obtain hives from us, and fancy that some alteration in the hive would be an improvement, carry it out, and fail of success, their fancied improvement actually making the hive worthless. The result is that moveable comb hives are condemned. We know of certain persons who, thinking the frames are too near together, have ordered their hives to be made with frames one inch apart, every hive of that description is worth no more than a common box. Our advice is to all, use moveable comb hives of some description, but be sure that you get those that are correctly made, and then in making keep the measurements exact, allowing those who understand the nature and habits of the bee to be the judges as to how a hive should be constructed. Commence a general warfare on millers and miller's grubs;—dishes of milk or sweetened water, set out at night, will destroy many of them. The bottom board of my hive may be dropped occasionally, and the grubs destroyed. Outside cards of comb, filled with honey, may be removed, and placed in a cool, dark box, and preserved for future use. They may be given to stocks that are found deficient in honey at the close of the honey harvest, or taken for table use when not required for feeding.

Italian Bees.



WORKER. DRONE. QUEEN.

We present herewith very accurate cuts of the Pure Italian or Gold Coloured Bees, now so much in request among apirians. Italian Queens vary in colour, being sometimes black or brown, but it is considered very desirable to get the light or gold-coloured stock, as in regard to these, colour is a guarantee of purity. The black or brown queens may be pure, but the gold or light-coloured ones are always pure.

The good qualities of Italian bees have been repeatedly mentioned in our columns, yet it may not be amiss briefly to refer to them again in connection with the above wood cuts. They are more hardy, more prolific, less apt to sting, and more industrious than the common kind. Beside these excellencies, the colonies swarm earlier, and more frequently. These points of superiority have been well-established, and are now regarded as settled characteristics of the Italian bee.

It is easy to Italianize a common stock, provided your bees are kept in a moveable comb-hive. Eight days before introducing an Italian queen, examine your stock and take away the queen. In four or five days cut out all royal cells, of which the bees will have commenced a number, on the eighth day examine again, and if any other queen cells are started, cut them out. Now take the Italian queen, put her in a glass tumbler with four or five of the bees which are always sent with her, tie a piece of wire-cloth over the tumbler, and turn the tumbler over on the top of the frames where the bees can get to her, put on the cover of the hive, and leave her for thirty-six hours. The bees will feed her through the wire cloth, and at the end of that time will receive her, and you may let her loose among them, putting a few drops of honey on her as she runs out of the tumbler. An impregnated Italian queen will never lay but pure Italian Eggs.

By reference to our advertising columns, it will be seen that Messrs. Thomas, of Brooklyn, C. W., will shortly be prepared to fill orders for these bees.



Notes of a Tour through Peel, York, Simcoe, and Wellington.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Having taken a run for a few days through a large part of Peel, and a little of York, Simcoe, and Wellington. I send you a few remarks, as the result of observations, that may be of interest to some of your numerous readers.

At Weston, I spent a few hours with Mr. Dennis, of Battonwood, and had my attention drawn to some swamp land, recently reclaimed by his son. The result, so far, has been very unsatisfactory, as no kinds of crop has come to full perfection. The land is low and flat, and but a few feet above the bed of the Humber. It has been drained, though, perhaps, not sufficiently deep, as the peat appears to be of considerable thickness, and approaches very nearly to what is designated in the Old Country, a bog. Land of this description cannot be made to produce profitably any of the ordinary farm crops, without, after thorough drainage, a liberal dressing of lime; and this should be done in the form of marl, the clay of which is necessary to give adhesiveness to the soil. Lime, applied in a caustic state, would be exceedingly beneficial in accelerating the decomposition of vegetable matter, and neutralizing injurious acids, which always, more or less, obtain in this description of land. Mr. Henry Dennis has erected a flax-mill on this property, worked by water power, and it will doubtless prove a valuable acquisition to the vicinity.

Flax culture is becoming established in some parts of this district, and promises to supply a valuable alternating crop in the routine of the farm. I heard several complaints of the dirty state of the flax seed imported by Government this season; the parties fearing that new kinds of weeds would thereby be introduced into the country. Undoubtedly, this seed requires to be re-cleaned, before sowing it and the lateness of its arrival rendered that operation somewhat difficult. It is not generally known here that Russian flax seed, when exported, is seldom, if ever, well cleaned;—and this is the case with wheat and other grain from that country as I was assured, when last in England, by the most respectable seed merchants of Mark Lane. The flax in question, however, may be depended on as genuine *Itiga seed*, and, if the present season prove at all propitious, it will, with proper care, furnish the country next year with an abundance of seed flax of the most valuable description.

I spent an agreeable day or two with J P De la Haye, Esq., of Clairville, who owns a valuable and extensive property here, consisting of some five hundred acres. The soil of this township (Gore of Toronto) is uniformly good, the surface apparently very level, yet in most places, like the rich and adjoining township of Chinguacousy, with portions of Toronto and Albion, sufficiently undulating as readily to admit of good drainage—an object of paramount importance. Throughout this level district, the wheat has suffered severely, from want of a sufficient covering of snow, which came on late, after preceding severe frosts, and went off too early in spring, when probably the greater portion of mischief was done. Large breadths have been ploughed up and sown to spring grain. In travelling over any considerable area of country in the spring, it is interesting and suggestive to observe the more obvious physical conditions that affect the health and appearance of winter wheat. These conditions are a dry and well tilled soil, sheltered from the cold, sweeping winds from north and west, by leaving a sufficient amount of the native forest. Mr. De la Haye pointed out a small field of wheat thus protected, that had a luxuriant appearance, while all around, the greater part of the fields

that were more or less exposed, looked comparatively bare. This indiscriminate distribution of the forest, that is unhappily so common in many of our older districts, is gradually becoming an evil of serious magnitude, and if the practice continues much longer, the climate of this region will increase in severity, and the raising of the more valuable kinds of winter wheat, for which, only a few years ago, Upper Canada was so celebrated, will have to be, as is the case already in some localities, wholly abandoned. In not a few places, the study and application of the principles of forestry, that is the correct manner of planting and grouping trees for shelter, ornament, and economical uses, must engage the serious attention of the next generation of owners and occupiers of land. What will be lost in comfort, beauty, and utility, if these precautions should unhappily continue unheeded, and the wholesale destruction of the forest persevered in, it is impossible to say. The spirit of the beautiful song,

"Woodman spare that tree,"

is as applicable to the arts and results of industry, and the comforts of a people, as it is to poetry and the picturesque. By earnest and timely attention to these matters, no part of the north temperate zone would be in appearance more beautiful, and the variety and economic value of trees greater, than the present settled districts of British America.

In cases of winter wheat looking thin and weakly in the spring, I would suggest a simple treatment commonly practiced in the Old Country, under similar circumstances, with manifest advantage. It consists in giving the surface a shallow harrowing, as soon as the land is sufficiently dry to bear a horse, and immediately applying the roller by way of finishing. This operation pulverizes the hard surface, fills in the cracks, and opens up the pores of the surface soil to the important action of atmospheric air, so necessary at this juncture to impart increased vitality to the action of the young and feeble plant, by enabling it to obtain food more readily, both from the soil and air. Any old short tine harrow will answer the purpose; comparatively few plants will be absolutely torn up, if the work be performed with proper care, and the subsequent operation of rolling will impart the necessary consistency to the surface. The wheat plant is extremely tenacious of life, so that harrowing with judgment actually destroys but few plants, while it imparts an impetus to what remain, so as to enable them to grow freely, extend their roots, and thicken. I have spoken to several farmers in Canada who came from the old country, that have repeatedly tried this practice here, with, in all cases, more or less success.

I am indebted to the kindness of John Lynch, Esq., of Brampton, who for many years has efficiently discharged the duties of Secretary of the county of Peel Agricultural Society, besides obtaining medals and premiums for agricultural reports on that and other counties, for certainly one of the pleasantest rural rides the I ever had in Canada. We drove through the rich and well cultivated township of Chinguacousy, ascended the series of elevations that form the high lands of Caledon, with its limpid streams, picturesque little lakes, limestone rocks, and beautiful and extensive scenery. Ascending the tower of the newly erected stone mansion of Alexander McLaren, Esq., amidst lovely scenery of hill and dale, field and forest, with the Credit meandering in the distance, I could almost imagine that I was in some sequestered spot of the mountain ranges of England or Scotland. This view embraces almost a semi-circle, from the Scarborough heights east of Toronto, to the elevations of Ancaster in the west, with lake Ontario spread out in front, hidden in several places by the gigantic denizens of the forest. It is true that the extended table land of Upper Canada presents few of those charming views which characterize similar areas of the British Islands, or parts of the Old World continent; but it is to this physical characteristic that we have no large tracts destined to perpetual sterility, and that almost every acre of our extensive domain is capable of being rendered fertile.

All that is wanting to render this section of country attractive to tourists are, readier means of access, and a wider knowledge of the salubrity of its atmosphere, and the great diversity and beauty of its scenery. Its picturesque little lakes and crystal streams, running even through the severest droughts of summer, abound in trout, offering to the angler a reliable source of gratification. From its comparatively great elevation, and in many places broken surface, giving rise to the principal rivers of Western Canada, the naturalist, as well as the mere seeker after health and pleasure, will find much to interest and amuse in search of the three great departments of nature. Looking at this district simply in a utilitarian point of view, much of it is well adapted to the purposes of cultivation, and the rest to pasturage while water power is abundant as a means of manufacturing industry; and of both of these two great