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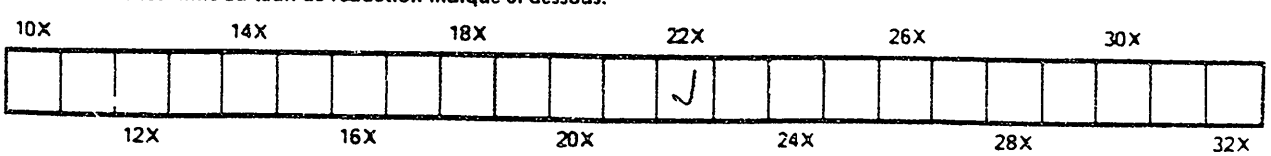

...The
Canadian Bee Journal

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

NEW SERIES VOL. VII, NO. 8. BRANTFORD, ONT., FEB., 1900. WHOLE NO 480.

Annual Meeting

Twentieth Annual Meeting Bee-Keepers' Asso., Ontario. | HELD AT TORONTO, DEC., 1899. . .

Mr. Darling: In discussing the President's address I do not know that I will say very much about it. In regard to the taking over of THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL I am not sure that this would be the proper time to air my opinion, but I might just say in passing that I believe that it would not be wise just now. Perhaps it would be as well to give a reason—a great many of us have been dissatisfied in the past with what we received, and also in the way we were treated at times, but I am convinced by what I have seen during the last two or three months that there is a very great prospect of a change for the better, and if we can be as well served, as there is a possibility of being thus served, and at the same time refrain from taking up something we do not know very much about, I think we would be wise to let people who understand such things run that part of the business and pay them a fair remuneration for it. With reference to the crops of the season, I am sorry there has been a good deal of truth in what Mr. Brown has said. Some odd individuals have secured what some of of us would call in any season, a large crop—perhaps they would not call it a large crop this year owing to the locality in which they live being better than the general run—but take it all over the country and the crop has been from small down to nothing. This may tend to the rising of prices; in fact the price of honey has been on the upward tendency for a good many years past. What is in the future for bee-keepers of course I cannot tell, but I think that the poor season is not altogether an unmixed evil.

Mr. Gemmell: Just one point I would like to touch upon, that is, with regard to taking over the JOURNAL.. I remember some five or six years ago there was quite a talk of doing the same thing, and there was a good deal of opposition to it. It was thought by some that it would be better if the JOURNAL was managed independently, while others thought if the association took the matter up our interest would be better served. I do not know what the opinion of the association is now, but as far as I am concerned I am quite willing to help in any way that may be decided upon by this meeting, whether it be taken over or left as it is. There are quite a number of things to be considered which

would take quite a little time to state now.

Mr. McKnight: I had not thought of the subject at all, but I see by the JOURNAL it has been canvassed and a variety of opinions expressed upon it. As Mr. Gemmell says, this is not the first time in the history of the association when a movement of this kind has been on foot. When it was about to pass from the hands of D. A. Jones Company into that of the present proprietors there was a pretty strong movement made in the same direction, and there were a number of the members of the association strongly in favor of taking over the JOURNAL, and in fact, I think two or three special committee meetings were held in connection with the matter. Some of the members thought it would not be a wise course. I was among the number, and I am of that opinion still. I don't entertain that opinion because of any fear I have of lack of sufficient material to conduct the JOURNAL properly; the difficulty I see in the way is a very important one, and that is, available funds. You cannot conduct the paper for nothing, and I do not think this association is sufficiently large to warrant it in undertaking the conducting of a special Journal in connection with its own proceedings.

Mr. W. J. Craig, editor: While I am not officially appointed by the publishers to make any proposals in this connection, you have been made aware through the JOURNAL that our company would willingly hand over the management of the paper to the association, if it is the desire of the membership, and it is for this purpose of finding the minds of the members of the association that our president has brought it before you. If the association does not see its way to take the full management and control of the JOURNAL what we want, perhaps, more than anything else just now, is your co-operation with the present management. We cannot get along very well without this. I thank the members of the association who have extended to me their sympathy—and, indeed, more than their sympathy—their help in this connection. There may have been things that you did not like, and there has been some things that our firm of publishers did not like. However, these all belong to the past.

Mr. Brown: In regard to what Mr. Craig has just said the proprietors are not over-anxious to dispose of the JOURNAL, but would dispose of it at a fair remuneration, but on the other hand with the active co-operation of the association we will have a better journal than we have had in the past; and I think that under the present management it will be all right in the future. Of course, there were some things which appeared in it that were not very pleasant to some of our members, but I question if the association was owner of the JOURNAL to-day whether there might not appear in it things that would not be very pleasant to some of them. It is impossible to please everyone.

Mr. Heise: While I think it would perhaps be in the interest of the association to conduct a journal, my opinion would be identical with that of Mr. McKnight. Under the present circumstances I do not see how it could possibly be done with the funds available.

The President asked Mr. Couse to express an opinion upon the matter of taking over the JOURNAL.

Mr. Couse: I suppose the first matter we would need to consider would be the financial matter. I feel that we cannot afford to take it over; I feel, though, that we can

afford, each of us, to do a little better than we have done before, which will result in the JOURNAL being more useful to us all and in that way we can, perhaps, assist Mr. Craig. That is about as brief as I can put the matter.

Mr. Pickett: Those who look after the business of the association know that our means are limited, and we should not go into anything that has even the appearance of extravagance. So far as an increase of government grant is concerned I am not sure that the success we have met with on other occasions would warrant us asking for more under existing circumstances. I think the Government would require to know that we really need this, and that it would be a vast improvement upon what we have had, and also that it is the wish of the province at large that such a Journal be maintained. In approaching the Minister of Agriculture for an increase some years ago I found, as perhaps many another has done, that the government is very careful, and while our demands were not extreme we did not succeed in getting all we asked for. At the present we are not suffering with any very great amount of indebtedness, and if we incur the liability that a journal would necessitate I fear that the members of the government would think we were asking rather much at their hands. I see no hope of any other source of gaining that point, and while I need not lay any claim to supporting the present journal, I am in hearty sympathy with those who are willing to try. I think the only method open at present is to leave it in the hands of the present owners.

Affiliated Societies' Report.

There have been eight societies in affiliation during the present year, as follows: Russell County, Halton and Peel, Haldimand, Norfolk, Oxford, York, Glengarry and Brant. Each society received a grant of twenty dollars and these grants have been expended as directed by the by-laws governing such expenditures.

The reports of the increase of bees and the production of honey is not as full and satisfactory as usual—two societies not reporting.

The colonies reported in spring were 3108, in fall 3402, or about 9½ per cent. of increase. Comb honey produced 7679 lbs., or an average of 2½ lbs. per colony, and the extracted 53095 lbs., or an average of 17½ lbs. per colony. These averages show a very poor yield of honey, and we take it for granted that if all the societies had reported the average would have been less.

On the motion of Mr. Pickett, seconded by Mr. Heise, the report was adopted.

Inspectors' of Apiaries Report

(Read at the O. B. K. Convention, Toronto, by Wm. McEvoy, Woodburn.)

During 1899 I visited bee yards in the Counties of Haldimand, Norfolk, Middlesex, Oxford, Brant, Wentworth, Lincoln, Wellington, Halton, Peel, York, Ontario and Simcoe. I inspected one hundred and twenty-six apiaries, and found foul brood in forty-seven of them.

In places where I never had been before is where I found nine-tenths of the foul brood apiaries the past season, and over three-fourths of the owners of these diseased apiaries did not know that their colonies had foul brood when I first visited them.

I took the greatest of pains to explain to the bee-keepers how to manage the business, so as to have every colony a good strong one, and in fine condition when they were cured of the disease.

In looking back over the nine years that I have inspected the apiaries in the Province of Ontario, I noticed

that I had found foul brood very widely spread through thirty counties. I succeeded in getting thousands of foul brood colonies cured, and the disease driven out by wholesale, and peaceful settlements made "in every case" where diseased stocks were sold through mistakes of the party selling, not knowing of their colonies being diseased at the time of sale.

Nine years ago very few among those that kept bees then were able to tell the disease from other kinds of dead brood, and not over half-a-dozen men in Ontario could cure an apiary of foul brood, and end the season with every colony in first-class order. The instructions that I have given while on my rounds through the province, and the driving-out of the disease by wholesale, will make Ontario one of the safest places in the world to keep bees in.

Mr. F. A. Gemmill of Stratford, Ontario, is the man that deserves the credit for all the work that I have done, and the government of our country that have paid for it.

In 1890 Mr. Gemmill took hold and worked hard until he got the Foul Brood Act passed, which has proved to be a great benefit to hundreds of bee-keepers.

I am greatly pleased with the way the bee-keepers took hold in the past season and cured these apiaries of foul brood.

Where I found a few worthless colonies almost dead from the disease late in the fall (and near fine sound apiaries) I burned them. The total number that I burned in the province were twenty colonies, after the owners and I had reasoned out things nicely together.

And for the courteous and very generous way that I have been treated by the bee-keepers of every locality that I went into, I return to them my most heartfelt thanks.

Mr. Holmes: In order to place the subject before the meeting I would only say that I think I would be voicing the desire of the meeting in saying we have all confidence in our Inspector of Apiaries; he does his work well, without fear or favor, and I would move the adoption and endorsation of Mr. McEvoy's report.

Mr. Newton: I have great pleasure in seconding Mr. Holmes' motion. I believe our inspector has worked faithfully not only in this season but in past seasons.

After several members had expressed appreciation of the work Mr. McEvoy had done, the motion was carried unanimously.

Bee Culture.

Paper read by R. H. Smith, St. Thomas, at a meeting of the Muskoka Farmers' Institute.

Bees belong to that class in the animal kingdom, known by naturalists as Insecta. Wasps, ants and sandflies are members of the same family. The natural history of bees is a large study in itself and can only be dealt with here in so far as it bears on the management of an apiary.

There are several varieties of bees; that which has been domesticated by man is known as Apis Mellifica, or the honey bee. The earliest historical references to this insect are found in the bible—Samson ate honey that had been stored in the carcase of a lion, previously slain by him. Honey is mentioned several times in the Old Testament; it is spoken of as dripping from the flinty rock, an allusion which shows that in ancient times, as now, the bees of Palestine took possession of rocky cavities as hives and stored honey in them. Wild honey formed part of the diet of John the Baptist. Honey and the honey comb are familiar scripture emblems.

Coming now to profane history, we

find Aristotle writing of bees upwards of 300 years B. C., Virgil immortalized them in his fourth Georgie some 300 years later. Columella and Pliny the elder wrote about bees during the first century, after which nothing worthy of note is on record concerning them, until two centuries after the revival of learning in Europe.

A properly constituted colony of bees consists of three different kinds, viz.: An impregnated queen, a number of drones and a far greater number of workers. The queen absurdly called the king bee from the time of Aristotle, and even Virgil down to Huber, is the mother of the whole colony, and is capable of laying over 3000 eggs per day. During the height of the breeding season in the honey flow, she frequently lays from two to three thousand eggs per day for many consecutive days, and remains prolific for from two to four years. The queen is reared from the same kind of egg as the worker, but in a much larger cell and on different food, called royal jelly. The time from the egg till the perfect queen emerges from the cell is about 16 days. A single fertile queen in a colony is the normal condition of the household, hence the old queen departs with the first swarm to make room for her successor. Second or third swarms are led out by the young queens.

The drones are portly looking, aldermanic insects, each with a jolly corporation of his own. They are the lazy fathers of the industrious hive. They have no sting, perform no work, but live a life of luxurious idleness. But they are the first to suffer in a time of great scarcity, by being turned out to die. Though they are promptly ejected from strong colonies when not needed, or the honey flow fails, they are tolerated in queenless colonies, and are sometimes wintered over.

The worker bees, though the bone and sinew of the colony, are not blessed with the queen's longevity. In active work on the wing and in the hive during the honey season, they naturally live but a few weeks—from one to two months—while those hatched in the fall will live until spring, sometimes reaching the age of nine months or more. In passing from the egg to the perfect bee the worker takes 21 days. The young worker spends from ten to fifteen days at home building comb, attending to the young brood, receiving and depositing the loads of the outside workers and sundry other little duties, before it ventures to the fields to work. The duties of the older workers of the colony are, to gather honey, pollen and propolis, and defend the colony from enemies from without or within.

Bee-keeping takes rank among the lesser economies of the farm. In Great Britain a farm would not be thought properly stocked unless it had a few hives of bees upon it. Until of late years bee-keeping was in a very crude state; it was usually carried on with straw or box hives, to the interior of which the bee-keeper had no access, consequently the bees were left at most wholly to their own devices during the working season, at the close of which they were brimstoned and robbed of their stores. But now the bee has become almost as completely domesticated as the ox or cow; its habits and its instincts have been studied, so that it can be controlled with nearly as much certainty as any of the other domestic animals.

It was a great advance when movable frame hives were invented. By the use of these artificial swarming may take the place of natural swarm-

ing, and instead of the bee-keeper having to await the convenience or caprice of the bees with the risk of losing swarms if the watch of the apiary is intermitted he consults his own convenience, divides over populated colonies and avoids loss of swarms. Moreover, when a colony becomes queenless and are in danger of extinction a new queen or brood from which to rear one can readily be supplied; combs, bees and honey can be given to weak colonies and surplus honey readily taken. The bees instead of managing themselves under the guidance of mere instinct, are managed by the superior intelligence of their human lords.

It was a still further step in improved apiculture when the honey extractor was devised. This machine by the simple application of centrifugal force, empties the well-filled combs almost to the last drop of honey, and on their being replaced in the hive the bees at once proceed to refill them. By the use of this machine the yield of honey is doubled and even trebled in good seasons.

Apiculture is naturally a part of and closely allied with agriculture, inasmuch as the nectar gathered by the one is immediately derived from the same fields and forests that yield the abundant ingathering of the other. Indeed the bulk of the honey crop of this country which runs up to millions of pounds annually, comes from the bee-keeping which is in connection more or less with farming. But this is not the principal reason why bee culture must take rank as an important national industry.

The postulate is fully warranted by the following fact or facts. Honey is a wholesome and desirable article of food, it is furnished to us at our very doors, and if we fail to preserve it the odor of wasting sweetness constantly reminds us of our neglect and loss. When the agriculturist takes his grain to market he takes with it more or less of the fertility of the soil; when he takes his stock and dairy products to the market he does the same thing, only perhaps in a less degree. But when he takes his honey to market he does nothing of this kind, he takes none of the fertile elements of his soil along with it. When the skilled apiarist, guided by science so controls, directs and manipulates his bees that they gather the rich nectar in tons from a given area, representing hundreds and even thousands of dollars, he impoverishes neither his own land nor that of his neighbor, he simply secures that, which if not gathered, wastes its sweetness on the desert air.

Likewise when a country exports its surplus grain or stock it also invariably parts with more or lessof its fundamental agricultural resources, but its exported honey-surplus represents no corresponding impoverishment of soil. It would therefore seem clear that from economic considerations alone bee-culture ought to and must take its place among the most useful and important national industries.

Buying Second-Hand Hives.

I never advocate the purchase of second-hand hives because of deeming them to be the most fruitful source of contagion. New ones are cheap enough and this does away with risk of any kind. Besides, it is always wise to fight shy of beeless hives unless their history is well-known.—H. W. Bryce in B. B. J.

I have been a subscriber to the C. B. J. for about ten years and find it an indispensible helper in the honey industry. I consider that it has been greatly improved lately.—Robert Galbraith, Kerwood.

Bee-Keeping

Practical Lessons in Bee-Keeping. | BY E. WHITCOMB, OF FRIEND, NEB.

FARMING

"Practical Lessons in Bee-Keeping," was the title of an excellent paper presented at the twenty-eighth annual meeting of the Kansas Board of Agriculture, by E. Whitcomb, of Friend, Neb., and published by secretary F. D. Coburn in his recent report.

He said in part as follows:

The problem of wintering is one of vital importance. To leave a colony on the summer stand, exposed to the sudden changes and bleak storms of winter, is not conducive to success, in the beginning. The careful, successful bee-keeper would as soon think of wintering his cow in this manner as his bees, which under proper care would yield under the investment equally as much profit. There are two means of successful wintering. First, packed, on the summer stand; second, in a well-ventilated cellar. The first is by far the most laborious, yet it has some advantages. Cellar-wintering is the least expensive; it is only necessary to keep them in Egyptian darkness and as quiet as possible, carrying them out on two or three bright days for a fly, during the entire winter. The temperature required is about that which will keep potatoes successfully. They remain in a semi-dormant state and consume but little.

Most every one has his or her favorite location for the apiary. Some choose the most shaded point possible. After experimenting for several years we have determined that, in my locality at least, the most exposed place possible is prolific of the best results. In the country between the Missouri river and the mountains the nights are usually cool, and we find that the mercury falls two or three degrees lower in the shade than on the open ground; that it requires a much longer time to warm up the hive in the shade in the morning than those not shaded; and, besides this, the sun comes out so warm in the morning that often before the colonies in the shade are warmed up the sun has evaporated a great portion of the nectar. It is with the bee as with the farm hand; the fellow who gets out early in the morning is the one who usually accomplishes the greatest day's work. In experimenting with this matter of location we find that the colony located the nearest the shade gather the least stores, while those located on the most exposed ground gather most. One case in particular was a colony shaded by a small plum tree. As the tree grew the colony produced less stores, until it barely gathered sufficient to winter itself. We moved this colony out into the sunlight and it went back to its old record in honey-making.

We set our hives facing the east, that the sun may shine on the entrance as soon as it peeps up in the morning, and further, that it may shine on the rear late in the evening in order to facilitate evaporation as long as possible. We use a temporary shade made with a few old staves tacked on a two by two, two feet long, and which protects the top and sides of the hive, allowing a free circulation of air, and the sun to shine on either end as it is reached.

Watering bees is of considerable benefit, and we would as soon think of allowing our other stock to roam the country in quest of water, as the bees in the apiary. During winter the moisture that condenses in the hive furnishes the colony water, but

during the early spring these condensations cease. They begin brood rearing early, and in order to prepare food for the young larva, must have water. The most vigorous bees go forth in quest of water, find it at some brook or tank where it is ice cold, fill themselves, and are chilled, and do not get back to the hive. The necessities for water steadily increasing, other bees go out, to share a like fate, until the colony is emaciated and the brood dies; and then we say to our neighbor bee-keeper: "I am bothered with spring dwindling."

Every careful bee-keeper well knows that one bee in early spring is of more value to him than half a hundred later on. In order to prevent spring dwindling we take one of the Mason half-gallon fruit jars, remove the screw top, take a seven-eighths board four inches square, and with a small gouge or a knife cut a groove nearly from one extreme corner to the other, taking care not to cut quite to the corner. We fill the jar with water, place the board over the mouth, invert all quickly, and place in convenient places in apiary. When the sun shines sufficiently so that bees can fly it will also warm the water through the glass, and we are always able to give them what they most desire, pure warm water, and no one until they have given this a trial will fully realize how much water a single colony will use during the height of brood-rearing. In order to draw them from the old watering place it may be necessary to slightly sweeten the water for a day or two.

I wish I could give some faint idea of the wonderful evaporating propensities of a colony of bees. Have you noticed early some warm evening when nectar is coming rapidly several bees were standing well up on their legs in front of their hive, and their wings were flying at a rapid rate, that the hum of busy work appeared to come from the entire hive? This is the evaporing process. Other bees take up the air and pass it through the hive, while still others suck up the freshly gathered nectar, and blow it back into the cell. Place your hand carefully over the entrance; on one side the air is cool, on the other it is warm. This process is kept up during the entire night, if the weather is warm.

Is it profitable to keep cows on the farm and produce butter? Is it profitable to produce poultry on the farm? Of course one would not think of producing apples in Alaska or bananas in Dakota; but wherever the conditions are favorable bee-keeping is as profitable as any other branch of agriculture. It should receive more encouragement in the future, with a full understanding that, whether we are engaged in agriculture, horticulture, or market-gardening, bees are our best friends, and as such should be encouraged to lend help toward swelling the balance sheet, fully realizing that in the pure nectar of the flower there is not only health but wealth.

Bees in Box Hives.

Farmer's Tribune.

Bees may be brought up to the highest type of perfection by simply transferring them from box hives to movable-frame hives, and if they are the black or native bees, an Italian queen may be introduced. Transferring can be done with much more ease and with better results in the spring of the year, as at this time the occupants of the hive are few in number and the combs are light. It should be done at a time when the bees are gathering honey, as this enables them to do the work of patching up and repairing the combs more rapidly. We always aim to do our

transferring about the time fruit trees are in bloom, and a warm, fine day presents itself.

For doing this work you will need a few tools, and of course everything should be in readiness, so that you can lay your hands on anything you want at a moment's notice. A hammer, a cold-chisel, a fine-tooth saw, knife with a long blade, a ball of hard twine such as is used in broom making, a little brush of some kind for brushing the bees of the comb—for this nothing is better than a few feathers from geese or turkey wings (hair brushes will not answer in the absence of a regular bee smoker), a few rolls of old cotton rags, and a transferring board. This is a board a little larger than the frame of your new hive, and assuming that your frame is the regular "L" frame, which is seventeen and five-eighths inches long and nine and one-eighth inches deep, the transferring board should be ten by eighteen inches. Nail strips of common lath on this board, the short way, half an inch apart, from one end to the other; a wooden needle about a foot long and small enough to pass through the half inch space between the lath, completes the outfit.

Take a roll of rags and fire one end, and when well burning—do not allow it to blaze, but only to smoke—tip back the box hive and push the smoking rags under it; slip a block under to hold the hive in position, remove the smoke and apply it at intervals a number of times. In thus smoking them, the bees will fill themselves with honey, and will not sting you, unless by accident. After thoroughly smoking, then pick up the box hive and set it a few feet to one side, with the bottom end up. Place the new hive on the same stand, in the identical spot the old one stood, with the entrance in the same place, or as near as it can be placed; open the new hive and remove the frames, take them and the transferring board to the box-hive, and blow in some more smoke. Now with the hammer and chisel cut the nails and take out two sides of the box; hammering thus will do no hurt but have the same effect on the bees as smoking them.

Cut out the first comb and brush all the bees off, lay it on the transferring board, lay a frame on it and cut the size of the frame inside, so it will slip tightly into the frame, and if one comb is not large enough to fill a frame, use two; cut and fill in all nice pieces of comb until the frame is full; then with the wooden needle insert the twine under the comb between the lath, draw up the twine and tie tightly over the top bar of frame. If the lath is about two inches wide this will give you a tie every two inches on the frame. Unless the comb is in small pieces it is not necessary to use all the spaces. When the frame is completed place it in the new hive, and all combs cut thereafter with adhering bees, they may be brushed off into the new hive. Proceed in like manner until all combs are thus fastened into the frames and placed in the new hives, then pick up the old box with adhering bees and shake them down at the entrance, and see that all the bees that may be gathered in little clusters anywhere are removed to the proper place.

Larned, Kan. A. H. Duff.

More of an effort should be made by bee-keepers to educate consumers to the palatability of candied honey. In many a bee-keepers' home the white solid honey is preferred even up. It spreads better on bread, does not muss up whiskered mouths and the small children can eat it without smearing the table-cloths.--Gleanings.

THE
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EDITORIAL NOTES.

EVERYTHING new this month—new paper, new type and new cover.

OUR readers would do well to note our clubbing rates; also the special premium offers which we make to old and new subscribers in this number.

NEXT month we hope to introduce Mr. Heise's convention paper on "Spring Management of the Apiary," and as much as possible of the discussion which followed. The whole series of convention papers will be interesting and seasonable.

WE are indebted to Mr. Morley Pettit, Belmont, for the article on "Cleaning Unfinished Sections," which appeared in our last issue, page 160. We regret that his name was omitted in connection. Mr. Pettit is one of our youngest bee-keepers and writers. We welcome him among us and to our pages. Assisting for a number of years his father, Mr. S. T. Pettit (well-known to our readers as one of Canada's most successful bee-keepers) he acquired a thorough training in all departments of the business, and now owns and manages the apiary at the old homestead in Belmont.

Gleanings for Nov. 15, and the December number of the Review vie with each other for honors at the head of the list of handsome apicultural publications. The enterprise of these publishers is admirable—doing credit to the industry. We congratulate Messrs. Hutchinson and Root upon the beauty of these exquisite numbers.—Says the American Bee-Keeper. So say we all. Honor to whom honor is due. They certainly were the brightest we have yet seen among current bee literature. We were particularly pleased to note the place given to some of the fair daughters of Canada among the prize pictures that grace the pages of Gleanings.

LATTERLY our U. S. brethren have been discussing the tall and square sections with renewed vigor and still they differ. While we do not wish to revive the old feud on this side of the border, we cannot help but admire and commend the sensible view taken of the matter by the "Progressive." The bee-keeper, who is in the business not merely as a "hobby," but for the dollars and cents he can make out of it, cannot afford to discard his supers for every whim or fancy that crops up if there is nothing really gained, or if the gain is not sufficient to warrant him making such a change. Our Canadian bee-keepers so far have been rather inclined to favor the square sections—the trade has not demanded any other. Sometimes supply dealers are blamed for suggesting, pushing or suppressing these changes for their own purpose, but we are not inclined to consider it in this way. It is to the manufacturer's interest to manufacture what the majority of his cus-

tomers want. If a commodity does not commend itself no amount of pushing will sell it to the thinking public.

THE peculiar disease prevalent among bees in the State of New York is causing considerable anxiety in bee-keeping circles over there. We have copied in part an article by Inspector N. D. West, which appeared in Gleanings a short time ago describing it. The question seems to be—what is it? "Is it foul brood, pickled brood, or something half-way between?" Editor Root and others are not inclined to consider it as real "Bacillus Alvei," the disease commonly known as foul brood. Among his editorial comments on the subject he says: "The MORALE of this thing seems to be that there are two kinds of foul brood, so called, in the United States, or at least there have been. The kind that has run through Wisconsin, Northern Ohio, and parts of Canada, is, evidently, not the same thing as that which is troubling the bee-keepers of Eastern New York. Real foul brood is about as bad as it can be; but we shall hope that the new malady, or an old one under a new name, will readily yield to the drug methods which have been said to be so effectual with what is supposed to be foul brood in some sections of our country. The very fact that the McEvoy treatment fails to effect a cure on the New York disease, in some cases, and that the affected brood has a different appearance, and is only slightly ropy, seems to indicate that it is not the foul brood so familiar to some of us."

A SUBSCRIBER writes: "I would be pleased to know through your journal in what degree of temperature bees should be kept in winter and where would be the most suitable place for them. If you publish any answers to questions I would like to know. I have already informed myself about the temperature from bee-keepers, but they are not all of the same opinion so I would ask of you." We are not surprised at you finding a diversity of opinions regarding temperature for indoor wintering. Just recently one of our friends reported of his good success wintering in a part of his cellar, partitioned off from where his furnace was situated, in a temperature of about 50 degrees Fah. However, with our leading bee-keepers who use a thermometer, the general finding is that bees winter best at a temperature of between 40 and 45 degrees Fah. When exposed to a much higher temperature than this they are apt to become restless and suffer to a more or less degree. On the other hand when the temperature is very low they will use a lot of honey to keep up the necessary animal heat causing their bowels to become loaded with fecal matter, which in their confinement is likely to cause disease and death. We believe that it is a very important matter keeping the temperature as even as possible. As to the "place," any repository, dry and quiet as possible, where the ventilation and temperature can be regulated and con trolled, should be all right for indoor wintering.

Notes & Pickings

By D. W. Heise, Bethesda.

Speaking of "cross or snappy" bees while great industry and great gentleness may unite in the same bee. I am sorry to say that the rule is, that when I find extra good workers among my bees they're of the "cross or snappy kind."—Stray Straw Gleanings. The editor wisely says to above: "There are exceptions to the rule, but it seems to be the experience of the majority of bee-keepers that honey-getting qualities are very apt to be combined with crossness—yes, generally so.

"All empty combs not in the hives should be put in moth-proof boxes, hives or rooms, where the temperature is liable to go down to freezing or lower. Combs, after a good freeze, and kept away from further visitations of moths will be safe until wanted again."—Ed. Gleanings. Jes-so, jes-so, Mr. Root. But what about the numerous cracks that will be found in the nice extracting, and even in the tougher brood combs that have been subjected to a freezing temperature for some time. Of course the bees will repair them, but some have been arguing that they will never be quite so strong again.

Rambler, in Gleanings, page 14, has this to say regarding the future management of bees: "The tendency of the times is to the annihilation of time and space, and man is just learning to understand the wonderful possibilities of his mind. The day will come when the bee-keeper can approach the hive and make a few passes over it, and the bees will become as tame as flies; and in order to introduce a queen first make a few passes, and both bees and queen when put together will immediately meet in harmony. In other words, we will hypnotize instead of smoke bees." To my mind that man "Rambler" should be caged as a dangerous lunatic, "What is."

"If there is one item above another having greater importance in the wintering problem, it is the securing of the winter stores near, and about the cluster of bees in time for them to settle down into that quiescent state so conducive to good wintering prior to the middle of October, in the more northern localities. To arrange these stores properly and seal them requires warm weather; hence all will see the fallacy of putting off caring for them until cold weather arrives."—Doolittle in American Bee Journal. Every bee-keeper who has not already, by experience, learned the importance of the above instructions, should paste it in their hat, on the lintels of their doors, yes on the center of their breakfast plate, that it may not be overlooked, because it is the keynote (so to speak) of successful wintering.

Who is the bee-keeper who had the pleasure of attending the Toronto convention, that is not ready to admit that it was the best convention held by the O. B. K. A. for several years past? The kindly feeling and fraternal affection that permeated the entire proceedings was something to be hugely enjoyed by everyone. And the encouragement that W. J. Craig received on every hand as the newly appointed editor of the C. B. J. should, and no doubt has filled him with a zeal and determination to put forth every legitimate effort possible, to make said journal an organ worthy of the support of every bee-keeper in

Ontario. Verily, Ontario bee-keepers have reasons for believing that a new era has dawned upon the "O. B. K. A." and the "C. B. J." So mote it be.

"More of an effort should be made by bee-keepers to educate consumers to the palatability of candied honey. In many a bee-keepers' home the white solid honey is preferred even up. It spreads better on bread, does not muss up whiskered mouths, and the children can eat it without smearing the tablecloth."—Ed. Gleanings. The handling of more honey in the candied state is something that this picker has contended for several years past; but one meets with so much opposition from some producers, that it seems to be treading on dangerous ground to even mention it. I am, however, (notwithstanding the opposition) firmly of the opinion that the producer, the dealer and the consumer would be better served if less liquid honey were offered for sale.

Whatever justification there may have been for the unpleasant things that were said about Mr. McKnight's opposition to certain convention proceedings in the past, he truly endeared himself to every bee-keeper's heart when he brought down his "appropriate and inspiring" motion that J. B. Hall be made a life member of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association. And truer words were never spoken than those uttered by Mr. McKnight, that J. B. Hall has been the "life and soul" of the O. B. K. A. conventions. And what J. B. Hall has been to the conventions R. McKnight has been to the association; and no one can recognize that fact more forcibly than the members who were associated with the earlier history of the association. And I feel sure that the present members are not so forgetful, or so void of appreciation of valuable services rendered, but what they will in the near future, in some way reward him for his services.

The New York Bee Disease.

or the disease now prevailing among the bees of that State, is thus clearly described by the bee-inspector, N. D. West, in Gleanings in Bee Culture:

"We have, I think, more than one kind of disease on the ground, and yet there seems to be a tracing from what I have called pickled brood, all the way along from bad to worse, and in different stages, until at last it so closely resembles foul brood that it is difficult to draw the line between this and the genuine foul brood, although some of the dead brood will be found at times to be flattened down into the cell, and will be about the color of white glue, and will, when a toothpick is placed in it, draw out from its cell from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch. But you have to hold the toothpick with an object in view, and try to get it to strike out or it will not follow the toothpick at all. Some of this becomes coffee-colored, and is rotten in the cell, and will string out some, but it will not break and spring back like rubber; neither do the combs, when held close to the nose, give off that offensive and sickening odor that I get from what I call the old-time foul brood. The hive, when opened, or a comb held close to one's nose, will give a kind of sour smell, or odor; but one of these coffee-colored, rotten brood, when removed from the cell and held close to the nose, will have a sort of rotten smell only. But take a hive full of brood, three-fourths of it good brood and one-fourth of it bad brood, as described above, and place it on top of a pretty good swarm to hatch; place a queen-excluding zinc between the hives, and keep the queen below, and

in due time the brood above the excluder will all be hatched out, and all of the bad brood will be cleaned out of the combs, and no more trace of the bad brood is seen in these hives that season. This has been my own experience in my own apiaries this season, and these colonies in the lower hives were slightly affected, as well as the brood placed on top of the colonies."

Conditions Favoring Cure of Foul Brood.

Inspector West, of New York State, is puzzled to know whether the disease that is making so much trouble, resulting already in the destruction of hundreds of colonies, is one disease in various degrees of severity, or several diseases. There is no doubt that foul brood does not in all cases show the same degree of virulence, and the belief has been advanced that where the disease has prevailed for some time the bees acquire a certain degree of immunity. In any case, some remarks that Mr. West makes in Gleanings in Bee-Culture, about the disease that is troubling New Yorkers, seem to apply equally well to foul brood. A strong colony, especially one strong with young bees, makes a better stand against the disease than a weak one. The flow of honey is important. The disease seems, to a certain extent, to ebb and flow with the flow of honey. A good flow of honey seems to lessen the amout of diseased brood, which again becomes more plentiful when the flow is over. There seems to be an advantage in large hives with an extra supply of honey always in sight.

Mr. West says: "I do have some fears that this malady may clean us all out of bees; but I have faith, and hope that, if we reach a good honey season, this dreaded disease may practically disappear."

Editor Root makes out a pretty clear case that the New York disease is not foul brood.—American Bee Journal.

A Morning Prayer.

Let me to-day do something that shall take
A little sadness from the world's vast store,
And may I be so favored as to make
Of joy's too scanty sum a little more.

Let me not hurt, by any selfish deed
Or thoughtless word, the heart of foe or friend:
Nor would I pass, unseeing, worthy need,
Or sin by silence where I should defend.

However meagre be my worldly wealth
Let me give something that shall aid my kind,
A word of courage, or a thought of health,
Dropped as I pass for troubled hearts to find.

Let me to-night look back across the span
'Twixt dawn and dark, and to my conscience say—
Because of some good act to beast or man—
"The word is better that I lived today."

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

D. W. Heise, in the Canadian Bee-Journal discusses the Apis dorsata question, and goes on to tell just what can, and cannot be done with the giant bee. Say, Mr. Heise, please admit The Bee-Keeper into that discussion: we don't know anything about it, either.—American Bee-Keeper.

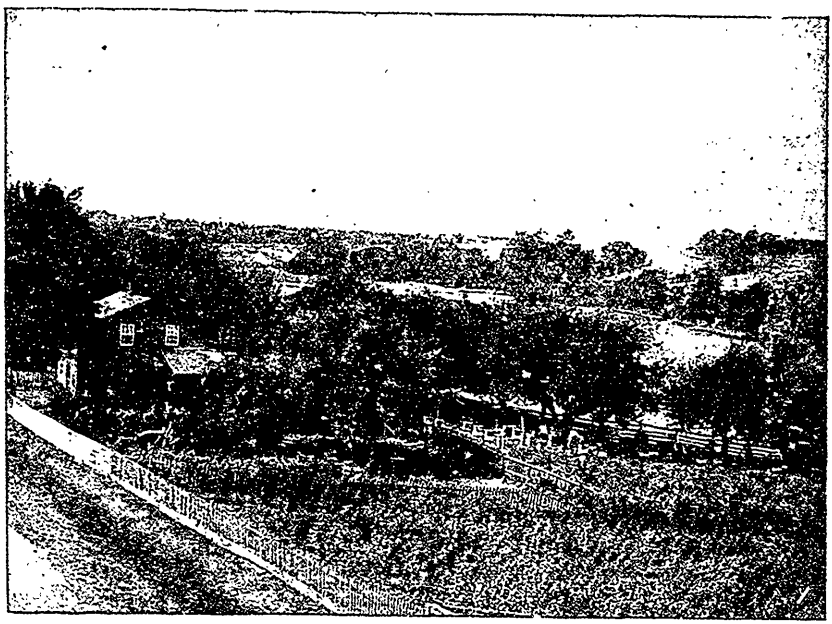
Duty is not less noble or beautiful because one performs it in a corner.

"Locality."

Passing Thoughts in Regard to this and other Matters. | Written for the American Bee-Keeper, by H. E. Hill

The engraving herewith shown, of Mr. Newton's home, reflects a typical Ontario scene—an ideal "summer in Upper Canada," as it was known in those "Days Gone By," of which Riley writes in his reflective muse.

The picture, with bee-hives beneath



the old apple trees on the banks of the River Thames, the graveled country road, the little farm-house and broad fields of rolling land in the background, presents in a most striking manner, to the writer, a scene of rural life in Oxford county, his boyhood home. It is here that my apicultural enthusiasm was kindled, when a lad; here that all the dreams of great apicultural achievements which characterize the earlier stages of the bee-fever were fully indulged; where my ambition outgrew my resources and resolutions flourished like unto a ragweed.

It was in Oxford county, in 1885, that "John and Harry" (Mr. Newton and the writer) were drilled in rudimental bee-keeping together, under Mr. J. B. Hall. It was there that we clipped our first queen; not, however, until dexterity had been acquired in taking hold of the wing with just the right movement. In this exercise the male population of the hive was made to suffer. Whether Mr. Hall, in advising this method as an initial exercise was prompted wholly by the desire to impart to his verdant class proficiency in practical clipping, or whether it was actuated by a thought looking to the reduction of the surplus drones, is a matter now too old to question. But, be that as it may, the clipping of queens by means of a knife, instead of scissors, was there learned, and is

one of the few things of which "locality" has not necessitated the unlearning, being yet in almost daily use in my work.

Mr. Newton, "like a good boy," has remained at home, and during all the years has had the satisfaction of practicing the teachings of Mr. Hall in the county where the instructions were received, and as a result of his strict application to business in a field with which he was thoroughly acquainted, has achieved success, and prominence among bee-keepers of Ontario.

On the other hand, the writer has been allured by stories of the "joyous hum of bees in midwinter," dreams of "lands of eternal springtime," visions of "floral seas" and such notions, hither and yon, spending his energy to enrich railroad and steamship companies. While "John" has been, throughout "The Circle of the Year," regularly carrying his colonies from cellar and placing them upon the same old stand; watching for the skunk-cabbage and dandelion to "start the ball" in the spring; the apple blossom to come and go, year after year; building up for the great harvest annually anticipated to begin about June 10th, when the first white heads of clover peep through the fresh, green grass by the roadside; with eyes shaded from the morning sun, peering through the tops of the tall basswoods, as we used to do, to see what the indications are for a July flow, and going through the old routine of preparing the exhibit for the Provincial fair at London or the Toronto Industrial, and, finally, getting back into winter quarters, "Harry" might have been seen climbing the foothills of Allegheny range to see the bees posion themselves (?) with mountain laurel; chasing a runaway swarm among the sage bush, up and down the precipitous canyons of California; viewing the broad acres of purple alfalfa bloom in the arid West: standing aghast at the oceans of mesquite which stretches away to meet the horizon of Arizona or Old Mexico; camped in some mangrove swamp of South Florida testing its producing capacity; or tangled in the bellflower vines of Cuba's south coast.

The following reflection may afford a fair speciman of those "terrible examples" often so highly prized by parents and Sunday school teachers, in their efforts to keep the boys at home and to impress upon them the adage, "a rolling stone gathers no moss." This is not saying that my friend Newton is a "moss-back," but serves to impress the advantages gained in sticking to the field with which we may be familiar in detail. With nearly twenty years of study and practice in bee-keeping in widely different locations, involving more than 25,000 miles of travel, I may be pardoned for assuming to advise that we must learn well our locality, its peculiarities and varing resourses and conditions, before we can hope to take anything like the full advantage of its capabilities. It is not less important that we should be thoroughly familiar with these, than with the natural habits of bees themselves; and to acquire a practical knowledge of several different localities requires no small effort. It is accomplished only by perseverance and patience—the reward of which is knowledge, for the time being—not the circulating medium of exchange so necessary to many of us. The noticeable inclination upon the part of some writers to ridicule the "locality" idea is a clear evidence of limited experience. The young man who looks forward to apiculture as his life vocation would do well to receive his training in the country in which it is proposed to

operate. Yet, our ability to choose wisely in the matter of a location is in proportion to the diversity of our observations and experience. Causes and effects in different localities are hardly less different in bee-keeping than are the varieties of vegetation and soil. The difference between a Canadian snow-bank and a Florida "snow-bank" will be illustrated in the next number of The Bee-Keeper, showing how bees are "snowed under" in the latter country in winter.

As I leisurely wait for a turn of the tide to transport a few choice colonies of our breeding stock to our mating grounds on the island, in full view of the original of the second scene, I study with absorbing interest, the details of the picture of Mr. Newton's home and meditate upon the proformance of his regular yearly duties. It revives memories of the past—fond memories—when youthful ambition in brilliant hues painted upon the canvas of the future pictures that are revived by this study. Long years have passed since "John and Harry" comprised Mr. Hall's corps of assistants—since boyish enthusiasm gave no place to the weightier cares and responsibilities of life.

"Was e'er a man with soul so dead"
When warmth of winter's sun is shed
On shady palm-leaves overhead,
And bees by fragrant blossoms led
To bring the honey that I spread
With butter on my daily bread
"That never to himself hath said,"
From snow-banks, thank the Lord, I've fled?

If there was, patriotism had a monopoly of his being, and gratitude for the truly beautiful things of life had been crowded out and frozen to death.

Fort Pierce, Fla., Nov. 20, 1899.

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Publishing Bee Journals—and Publishing Reports of Big Crops and Big Failures.

I see by the last two numbers of THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL that there is talk of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association "taking over" and publishing THE BEE JOURNAL; but, for a wonder, the members don't all seem to think alike about the matter, and J. D. Evans says:—

There is a danger of its falling under the control of some "goody goody" blatherskite, whose chief aim in life is to induce every man and his sisters and his cousins and his aunts to keep bees.

He then goes on to tell "what a good bee paper should be;" promising his information with the statement that "perhaps few of the members of the O. B. K. A. would agree with him;" and I believe he is right. He says:—

1st. It should strictly exclude from its columns all reports of big crops; they are seldom true and always misleading. * *

2nd. I think that a bee journal should honestly publish failures. * *

My! but what will become of those of us who don't produce good yields? Who will "whistle" for us to "keep our courage," if the journals don't do it; and publish "reports of big crops," which I believe are generally true, and seldom mislead one who does his own thinking?

I perfectly agree with Mr. Evans in his second proposition; and I believe all other honey producers do the same. Failures should be published, just as honestly as big crops. —Dr. A. B. Mason in The Bee-Keepers' Review.

In the case of a horse attacked by bees, as speedily as possible throw buckets of water over bees and horse. —Australian Bee Bulletin.

Bee Journals for Bee-Keepers.

In THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL Mr. J. D. Evans gives his ideas as to what a good bee journal should be. Three specifications:

1. "It should strictly exclude from its columns all reports of big crops; they are seldom true, and always misleading." (Rather tough on the veracity of bee-keepers).

2. "It should honestly publish failures." (Is the truth to be told when one has a failure, and suppressed when one has success?)

3. Reports of conventions "should not be printed in full, but only a synopsis containing the practical points brought out." (But "there are others," Mr. Evans, who consider the "very best" feature of THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL its full convention reports.)

Mr. Evans further says: "I know of no journal published entirely in our interests. If the publishers of bee papers are not induced to boom the profession in order to have more customers to whom they may sell supplies, or from whom they may buy cheap honey, the desire for a larger field from which they may secure subscribers produces the same result, but would we be any better if THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL came under the control of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association? I am afraid not. I doubt whether we could agree as to what should be inserted therein."

In Germany, where a large proportion of the bee journals are run by bee-keepers' associations, they do not seem to differ from the bee journals of this country in this regard, unless it be that they do a little more toward urging bee-keeping for all. Whether the climate of Canada differs greatly from that of Germany in this respect may never be certainly known, unless the Ontario association should become the publisher of a bee journal.--American Bee Journal.

We might also add the British Bee Journal to these as a good specimen of an independent bee paper, conducted by a management with whom the matter of a subscription list from a financial standpoint, is but a very secondary consideration. No paper has done more for bee-keepers, has given fuller crop reports, nor has advocated more strongly the development of the industry than the B. B. J.—ED.

Tall vs. Square Sections Again.

E. E. Ochsner, of Wisconsin, gives the tall section the black eye in a recent issue of Gleanings. He thinks the square section looks much the best. There will always be some difference of opinion in regard to styles of sections, because we do not all fancy alike. I believe had tall sections been in as general use as the square section, many would have become tired of the looks of the tall section, and would be favoring a change to the "nice" square section, while as it is, the tall section is rapidly gaining favor with those who like a change. For myself, I do not admire a section $3\frac{1}{8}$x5, as such a section when not filled out clear to the wood, looks too much like a little narrow strip of honey, so to speak, while a section 4x5 suits my mind's idea much better than any other size, but the trouble with this size is, the supers that are in general use now will not conform to this size section, and I do not believe there would be enough gained, even in looks, to advise a change to this size.—Progressive Bee-Keeper.

For sticking labels on tins, flour and water well blended and boiled, with perhaps a little alum to preserve, is as good as any.—Australian Bee Bulletin.

Communications

Another Bee-Keeper Fallen!

On the morning of Saturday, the 6th of January, we were suddenly called upon to witness the demise of our fellow-townsman, who had been a long and popular authority upon the mysteries of Apiarian art. It was the lamented death of Mr. Wm. Gott of the town of Strathroy, who after a long and painful illness, borne with great Christian meekness and resignation, passed quietly away to his peaceful rest. With other lines of his busy life he had been known for many years as a successful and influential bee-keeper and dealer in bee-supplies. He came to this town in the early sixties and had grown with its growth, and by his congenial disposition and uniform kindness to all had assisted much in the town's prominent industries and the building up of many of its benevolent and helpful associations. About ten years ago he became so deeply interested in bees and bee literature, that he determined to make it an important and engrossing part of his future life work. So successful was he in this that he soon became an established authority on all matters of bee management and bee products. So rapid did he rise in the estimation of his brethren of the cult, that in the working out of their pleasure he occupied many important positions of trust and service in their local associations and consultations. As a producer, also, he was quite successful, and was always pleased to have on hand the finest brands and the best quality of honey that was obtainable in the market. He passed away from earth and all its interests in the sixty-second year of his age. But we now feel that his life work cannot be lost but will tell in the future life of the race, and the industry for which he labored will continue to grow to yet greater things. He leaves a wife and a family of eight grown-up children to mourn his loss. B. G.

Strathroy, Jan. 10th, 1900.

Literary Notes

Companion Stories for 1900.

The stories published in THE YOUTH'S COMPANION portray the manly and womanly virtues with no sacrifice of interest or vitality, and they appeal to the sympathies of old and young alike. During 1900 THE COMPANION will offer special series of stories—among them being stories of Former Political Campaigns and Adventures of Linemen.

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The Honey-Makers

is the title of a neat volume of 424 pages, by Miss Margaret Warren Morley—A. C. McClurg & Co., publishers, Chicago.

Miss Morley's style is rather original in this and shows a good deal of careful research in bee lore. While the work does not pretend to teach bee-keeping it will be found to be a valuable acquisition to bee literature by way of an educator, to a better knowledge of the history and habits of the honey bee. "The structure, habits and products" are dealt with in the chapters of part one. Part two deals with "its literature and history." The closing chapter is devoted to "bee culture at present."