

The...
Canadian Bee Journal

*Devoted to the Interests of the
 Bee Keepers.*

Published Monthly by
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(Limited)

BRANTFORD, CANADA

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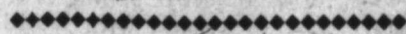
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Organized 1880.

Incorporated March 1886

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The Canadian Bee Journal

Published Monthly

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BRANTFORD, CAN., JANUARY, 1906

Whole No
490

A New Year's Song

+

A happy New Year! is a greetin'
we'll hear

For twa or three days to come;
On the highway an' street ilka
friend that we meet,
Will shout it, unless he is
dumb.

Now the wish is quite guid, an'
I wadna forbid

A warm-hearted body ta say it;
But, this I will say, we maun
work as weel's pray

An' no a bit backward tae
dae it.

Sae mind that ye'r' prayin' ilka
time ye are sayin'

I wish ye a happy New Year;
An' let kind deeds an' words
follow 'ither like birds,

An' see that ye aye be sincere.

But I see yer a' thrang, sae I'll
feenish my sang,

An' join in the mirth an' guid
cheer;

But, before I tak leave, I wad
hae ye believe,

I wish ye a happy New Year!

NOTES AND COMMENTS

By a York County Bee-Keeper

Effect of Bees Upon Clover and Other Plants.

If conditions in Nevada is a criterion to judge by, the motion introduced at our last annual meeting, asking the authorities to investigate as to the benefits and injuries (if any) following the visits of honey-bees on various plants, is quite opportune. A correspondent in "Gleanings" says that the agitation between the cattle-men and the bee-men has reached an acute stage, and that legislation adverse to the bee-keepers is a certainty in the near future. The cattle-men tell the farmers that their alfalfa hay is not so sweet and fattening as it was "when no bees were here to draw from it its saccharine qualities." As the correspondent points out, the farmers are not to blame under the circumstances, and he asks that scientific men take hold of the question and show up the utter fallacy of the contentions of the cattle-men. Happily, at present anyway, we have nothing to fear in Ontario from prejudice of this kind, yet, at the same time, what has been asked by the Ontario Association is sure to prove a benefit to bee-keepers, if the request is granted. I feel sure that we have no

thing to lose, but possibly much to be gained, by such an investigation. By all means let the light be turned on.

Different Localities Require Different Management.

Possibly, without exception, the bee-keeper most prominent before the public eye at the present time is Mr. E. W. Alexander of New York. While Mr. Alexander has certainly had phenomenal success in the matter of keeping a large number of colonies in one place with good results, one cannot but think that his advice to the general bee-keeping public is misleading in some respects. For example, let us consider some points of his management, as outlined in December "Gleanings." Mr. Alexander starts on the supposition that on April 15th a bee-keeper has 100 fairly good colonies: by feeding every colony every day that no nectar is coming in; each colony will be ready to divide by May 25th. By proper management the 200 colonies now on hand can, by the last of June, be increased to 300, all in good shape for any flow coming after July 1st. While we do not question that Mr. Alexander may be able to do this in his locality, in how many other localities would it be possible to attain like results? My experience, of course, is nothing, compared with Mr. Alexander's, but I could never see that early feeding did any good; in fact, contrary results were more often attained. Again, how many localities are there that would allow even strong colonies to be trebled previous to the honey flow, and yet yield any considerable surplus? As a matter of fact, four years ago we averaged 100 pounds per colony, and every ounce was brought in before July 1st. Even doubling the colonies during the last of May would have proved disastrous that year, as the 100-pound surplus was all gathered during the following 25 days. It should be borne in

mind that his location is one in a thousand, and that the main surplus is from buckwheat, which permits of a great deal more time to get colonies ready for the flow than is the case where clover is the only source of surplus. Mr. Alexander, I believe, classes his location as "a fairly good one," but we are told by a visitor to his yard that there are usually 5,000 acres of buckwheat in range of his bees. As Mr. Alexander advises none to keep bees unless in "a fairly good location," methinks if all took his advice there would be few bee-keepers left, and that his territory would be encroached upon to such an extent that it would possibly become a poor location. Mr. Alexander's estimate as to what fair returns from an apiary of 100 colonies, spring count should be is \$2,125, clear of all expenses in an average year, with honey at 6 cents per pound wholesale. It sounds pretty alluring, and makes a fellow feel like becoming (temporarily, like John Chinaman) a citizen of Uncle Sam's domains and locating in the vicinity of Delanson, N. Y.

[With all due respect to Mr. Alexander, it is our opinion that his case has been unduly emphasized, and would be misleading and disastrous to the great majority of less fortunate bee-keepers should they attempt to follow his system under altogether different conditions. Glad that you have pointed this out.—Ed.]

Various Weather Conditions.

We notice the revival in "American Bee Journal" of the department entitled "Canadian Beedom." This time it is being conducted by our friend from Villa Nova, who is, by the way, I believe, the only M.P. in our ranks. In a recent issue we find some complaint as to weather conditions that fall in Ontario; no chance for bees to have a cleansing flight before going

in cellar, etc. Surmise that friend P—— took his bees into cellar a few days too soon if in his locality was anything like in York county during the last few days of November, when bees here had a thorough flight. Since then the weather has been quite mild most of the time, and the bees have had more flights. These are possibly conducive to best wintering. However, chances are that they will be kept pretty quiet for next two months.

[Weather here, and, we presume, at Villa Nova, while fine and mild for the season, has not been warm enough for anything like a general flight. This old Ontario does give a great variety of climate. We have had scarcely any snow here so far this winter. Fifteen miles north they are having good sleighing.—Ed.]

Bee-keeping in Russia.

Not even an "average location" that of Mr. Kirkham's as described in December "Canadian Bee Journal." In view of rather unsettled condition of Russia at present time, coupled with Mr. Kirkham's report, not much danger of any considerable exodus of Ontario bee-keepers to the Czar's domains. However, according to Mr. Titaff (the Russian gentleman recently with the Root Co.), there are many locations in Russia that compare quite favorably with this country in the matter of honey-producing flora.

Extracting Beeswax.

"The cat is out of the bag" at last. In December "American Bee-keeper" Mr. A. C. Miller describes at some length the "new" system of extracting wax from old combs. Whether it is on the same principle as is used by Mr. Hershiser, I have no definite knowledge, but I very strongly suspect that it is. As you no doubt, Mr Editor, will be giving our readers information on the matter, I will briefly give a few extracts

from Mr. Miller's article. Mr. Miller has taken the same stand as outlined by Mr. Hershiser at our late meeting, viz., that mere pressure will not take all the wax out of old combs, owing to capillary attraction. As an example, Mr. Hershiser cited the case of a sponge filled with ink; press it until dry, dampen it again and press once more, and still more ink will be forced out. Mr. Miller's press is constructed on this principle, while the mass of combs, etc., is submerged in hot water, a contrivance agitates the mass continually, and at the same time a certain amount of pressure is applied. As hot water is poured in the freed wax rises and runs out of a faucet for the purpose. Mr. Miller says: "In mere submergence, or submergence with agitation only, a small portion of the wax is released, but with submergence and simultaneous disintegration, agitation and pressure, all of the wax will be separated from the waste and secured." No doubt improvements will be made over the press as illustrated in the "American Bee-keeper," but we feel quite sure that the principle is sound, and that quite a revolution in the matter of wax-rendering is an assured fact for the near future.

[Yes, the Miller wax extractor is probably a step in advance of any of the methods of wax-rendering yet introduced. We hope it is, at any rate, as nothing of the sort has so far been quite satisfactory or without drawbacks of some kind. We have experimented in our factory with pressure under water, using our regular wax press and running the wax off from an outlet above by pouring in hot water, somewhat as Mr. Miller describes. We certainly did get more wax, but it meant a good deal of slopping and pouring of a large amount of hot water, and it required to be very hot to keep the wax from freezing

when the machine was not sitting directly on the stove. Mr. Miller's system of agitating the mass is a new feature, and will no doubt assist the operation, but we are not so sure that it can be conducted with best results without a very large amount of boiling water and without having the machine on the kitchen or some other stove.—Ed.]

Local Demand for Honey.

Don't know how it has been with other bee-keepers, but with us the local demand for honey has been unprecedented, and we made the serious mistake of not keeping enough on hand for the home trade. Could easily have sold over 1,000 pounds more right at home if we had it to spare. While this is encouraging, yet it teaches a needed lesson of developing our home markets more and doing less wholesaling. No doubt a great deal more honey could be used than is now the case if it was properly pushed and only a good article placed on the market.

[We do not think we ever saw the honey market in a healthier condition than it has been all season, and local demand has been exceptionally good; but don't you think that the light fruit crop and the scarcity of apples especially, has had something to do with this? The old Scotch proverb says, "It's an ill wind that blows naebody guid," and this is surely the bee-keeper's opportunity, not only of making present local sales, but, as you say, developing a home market for his honey for the future.—Ed.]

HONEY APPLE BUTTER

1 gallon good cooking apples; 1 quart honey; 1 quart honey vinegar; 1 teaspoonful ground cinnamon. Cook several hours, stirring often to prevent burning. If the vinegar is very strong use part water.

QUERIES and ANSWERS

Department conducted by Mr. R. H. Smith St. Thomas, Ontario. Queries may be sent direct to Mr. R. H. Smith or to the office of the Canadian Bee Journal.]

Q.—In making an exhibit of beeswax the entry usually calls for so many pounds of the best beeswax. What is this supposed to mean. Is it supposed to be the best in color, texture or freedom from refuse? Or should it be the best for a certain purpose, and if so, what purpose?

A.—I must confess I do not know just what was intended. Certain kinds of beeswax may be the best for some purposes, and not the best for making comb foundation. Wax rendered from old comb may be quite a different texture from capping wax, and in the absence of a standard or rule judges will differ as to which is best. I think that soft, clean wax from old comb should be in a separate class from hard wax rendered from cappings.

Q.—I have a quantity of honey in sections and it has begun to candy. What is the cause, and how can it be prevented?—SUBSCRIBER.

A.—I do not know why it should candy. My experience has been that in some seasons when the nectar has been gathered slowly and afterwards stored in a cool place, it will candy more or less. Another season, if the flow is good and it is stored in the sections and capped at once, I have several times kept it over until the following season without it showing any signs of candying. After being removed from the hives, comb honey should be stored in a warm, dry place.—R. H. SMITH.

St. Thomas, Ont.

CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL BEE-KEEPERS ASSOCIATION U. S.

(By Gleaner.)

The convention which has just closed is said to have been the most largely attended in the history of the association. The large hall was crowded again and again and the ante-rooms had to be made use of. The president-elect owing to the absence of the president, had the chair, and performed his duties in a very pleasing and acceptable manner. To show the difference of opinion as to importance of subjects it was stated at different times that, "this is the most important subject before the convention." It was remarkable that so many had come to the conclusion that natural swarming was a great hindrance to successful bee-keeping, the number of advocates of large hives was surprising, also the large proportion of "Dutchmen" at the convention. The first subject taken up was that by L. Stachelhausen Converse Texas.

Control of Increase.

"We know a number of ways to prevent swarming, one of the most practical ways to prevent or at least delay swarming is to use large hives, that is a large comb-surface, by which the bees can extend the brood nest in every direction. At the same time colonies in such large hives will develop faster during the spring and build up to stronger colonies than we can force such a development in smaller hives by spreading the brood and other laborious and dangerous manipulations. In a large hive with plenty of honey a healthy colony will develop to the greatest possible strength without any

manipulation made by the bee-keeper.

It may be said that such large hives do not always and under all circumstances prevent swarming. This is true, but I have observed, if in an apiary 10-frame Langstroth hives are changed to larger ones the bees will swarm less by and by every year. In my locality the bees from hives not larger than 8 or 10 Langstroth frames swarm so much that one man could hardly manage an apiary of 100 colonies. I could tell you stories about the ways some of my bee-keeping neighbors acted to get rid of these surplus swarms. Since about 24 years I use larger hives and had no trouble of this kind anymore. This is a very important difference, if bees shall be kept in the least number of hives to make a profit-bearing business.

"In my locality the problem is to keep the bees from swarming till the main honey flow commences; during this flow the bees will not swarm, if they have not made preparations for it before this flow commenced. Under such conditions, hives as large as the Dadant hive will prevent swarming sufficiently in most years. In other years, which are more favorable for brood-rearing I have to watch my colonies more carefully. If I find a very strong colony with brood much extended I have to manipulate it, especially if I find queen cells started; it may be set as a rule, if we find 2500 sq. in. of comb surface occupied with brood, this colony will probably swarm soon even from a very large hive. The prevention of swarming may have different purposes. If we care not or are not willing to watch our colonies during swarming time we can make the swarms artificially a little earlier, as they would swarm naturally, but in this case we would get as much or even more increase. If we want less increase, we make so

many artificial swarms only, as we think necessary to prevent natural swarms. Or we do not want any increase at all to keep the whole force of a colony together and have it as strong as possible during the honey flow. For this reason we have to select different ways for the prevention of swarming. If we make swarms artificially, we can make one or more swarms, from every colony strong enough, or we make one swarm, from two such colonies, or we take the material to form a new swarm from a larger number of colonies. All this is done for a permanent increase. A second way is, when no increase is wanted, to divide a strong colony for some days only, and when the swarming fever has passed, we unite these two colonies again. A third way is to manipulate the colony in such a way without dividing it, that it will not or can't swarm, we will consider these three ways. There are again many different ways of artificial swarming. During many years I used the well-known plan to make 3 out of 2. A strong colony A is shaken into a new hive with starters or full sheets of foundation, and this hive is set on the old stand of A. The brood combs without bees are placed into another hive and this is set on the stand of another strong colony B, and the colony B receives a new stand C. To the colony now at B a queen, fertilized or virgin, or even a queen-cell, is introduced. If the honey flow is good and of long duration this plan can be used and with profit, but the colony at B is in a bad condition for some days, having no young bees to feed the larvae. A part of them may starve and be drawn out afterwards. The colony C has lost all the field-bees, and if the hive does not contain very thin, watery honey, the young bees can't prepare the necessary larvae-food, and some of the young brood is lost again.

except we give some water to this colony in some way till some of the young bees will fly out to gather this water outside. Since ten years I prefer for these reasons another plan, especially recommendable if we want very little increase. I take from a colony which I expect would make preparation to swarm, three or four brood-combs (three of my frames have not quite as much surface as two Langstroth frames). The bees from these combs are shaken back into their hive. In place of these brood-combs empty combs or frames with full sheets of foundation are given to this colony. Eight of these brood-combs from different colonies are set into another storey and two empty combs added. This storey is set on top of another strong colony over a queen-excluding honey-board. In this way I go through the yard till all colonies strong enough are managed. In about two or three hours these brood-combs over the excluders will be covered with young bees, and now I remove them again.

Two such stories, with brood and bees, from two different colonies, will form a new colony, which is placed on a new stand, a queen in a cage close by with candy is introduced, and at the beginning of the honey flow one or more supers are given to this colony, and this bee-yard is safe for ten days at least. The advantage of this plan is that the colonies are weakened not more than is necessary to prevent swarming, and the new colonies are at once ready to store honey. Hereby it is important that we take mostly capped brood from the colonies, and that we give the frames of foundation in the proper place. Our purpose is that this foundation should be drawn out and eggs should be laid in these cells at once by the queen, therefore they must be given in such a place where the queen will lay.

Other well-known methods were given to prevent natural swarming, such as "shaking," dequeening and the like.

R. F. Holtermann, Brantford, Canada, opened the discussion, stating that as a result of the teachings of Dadant and others, and observation when he again began bee-keeping some five years ago, he had adopted a twelve-frame Langstroth hive. The first steps towards swarming were: First drone brood then cell cups. Stocks should be treated to prevent when cell-cups were formed, unless the swarming season would shortly close. Several factors besides large hives entered into the prevention of swarming. First enlarge the hive entrance 7-8 of an inch by putting wedges between brood chamber and bottom board, as designed by S. T. Pettit. Next put on supers in time and in these supers have ventilators to give the bees in the supers fresh air. No hive for extracted honey should have less than two available supers. A proportion of super room was required to brood chamber to keep bees content. His ventilator in super was described by Mr. Holtermann.

Dr. C. C. Miller stated that ventilation in supers was very important. He remembered that in the olden days when visiting Adam Grimm, the old German was on a hot day giving ventilation to comb honey boxes stating "that is very important."

Dr. Bohrer stated what would control swarming was large hives. Father Langstroth had used brood chambers 18 or 20 frame size. Bees did not swarm if put in salt barrels.

A. K. Ferris, Madison, Wis., said: use a 14 Langstroth hive and keep spring up until the heavy flow, having then as high as thirty frames of brood. I divide the hive into two parts for winter, and winter with two

queens (solid division board between). I put supers on when the honey flow begins, then take both queens away and in a few days give a cell or queen to prevent swarming. I would strongly endorse ventilation. I have had hives five stories high and then a cluster of bees the size of a half bushel outside. I have had the bees fill these five stories in seven days with honey. I have no use for queens more than a year old. I think bees queenless will go in on the supers quicker than when they have a queen.

(Continued next month.)

THE NEW YEAR.

Swift as a hare, with greyhound Time behind,
Panting and numb, thro' lashing fears unkind,
Speeds on each year from snow to cold again,
Spring to the burst of life 'midst sun and rain,
Summer to noon with all its wealth galore,
Autumn to ellyow sear with garnered store;
Thus ever run the months in ceaseless 'moil
'Midst every phase of pleasure, grief and toll;
God be our thought, and justice every deed,
Love in each heart, then must our Works succeed.

—Newman Harding.

If there is a pitiable sight in the world, it is that of a man with the executive ability, sagacity, and foresight to make a clean fortune, yet using his energies and abilities in making a dirty one—a fortune which denounces and condemns him, and is a perpetual disgrace to himself and his family.—Success Magazine.

THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

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Editor, W. J. Craig.

Brantford, January, 1906.

The wave is breaking on the shore—

The echo fading from the chime—

Again the shadow moveth o'er

The dial-plate of time!

—Whittier.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We wish all our readers a very happy and prosperous New Year. The C. B. J. has put on a brand-new dress for the occasion. We hope you will like it.

"Gleanings in Bee Culture," Christmas number, is the neatest production we have seen in bee literature. The cover is most artistically designed in colors, the matter is good, and it is beautifully illustrated throughout on toned paper. We congratulate Editor Root.

Our friend, Morley Pettit, of Villa Nova (late of Belmont), is conducting a department in the "American Bee Journal," entitled "Canadian Beedom." Mr. Pettit is well adapted for the work. The introduction will keep our American cousins in touch with us.

We are having a most remarkable season in the southern districts of Ontario. Scarcely any snow so far, and very mild for the season. Bees outside are reported as having had a partial flight on December 26th and 27th. Some bee-keepers who winter in cellars speak of their bees being quite restless on account of the high temperature.

Canadians who were present at the National Bee-keepers' Association Convention at Chicago say it was one of the best they have ever had the pleasure of attending. The attendance was large throughout, and the papers and discussions were of a very high order. Sorry we were unable to be present; we have, however, secured a number of the papers, through the kindness of their authors, and some selected notes of the discussions.

We have not had any official report from the freight rate committee, but understand that they received a very favorable hearing from the Railway Commissioners, and that they have every reason to believe that their request for a reduction in the classification of bees, honey and beeswax will be acceded to.

CAUCASIAN BEES.

Nothing for a long time has so agitated the minds and divided the opinions of the United States bee-keepers as the introduction of this race of bees by the Department of Agriculture at Washington. Gleanings is rather favorable to the new-comer, while Editor Hill, of the American Bee-Keeper, waxes hot in his denunciation of them in the following editorial:

While the intentions of the Department are doubtless the best, we deem the procedure one, the wisdom of which may well be questioned. The American Bee-Keeper would certainly decline the proffered gift of a Caucasian queen, and would pray that none of its neighbors might accept; at least until the race has given a better account of itself than now stands to its credit in this country. When a Caucasian queen for breeding purposes or otherwise is desired, the breeder would hardly forego the wish to possess her simply because of the usual purchase price.

The Caucasian race has now been before the American public for more than twenty years. Some, at least of those who tried them, found the

to compare favorably with the stingless bees of the tropics in the matter of complete worthlessness.

It is twenty years since the writer had the honor to be introduced to a colony of these meekest of the meek in all beedom. They were as gentle and docile as a sick lamb. Their docility was exceeded only by their laziness; but nothing could exceed in completeness the perfection of this latter trait. While supers tiered up from three to six, and even eight upon colonies of Italians, black and Carnio-Italian crosses, not a section of surplus could the gentle Caucasian be induced to store. One of the assistants in the apiary used to say that they went to the basswood forests at meal-time to eat but returned with empty honey sacs; and the condition of the colony throughout the season would justify such a belief.

It is obviously true that the foregoing instance is insufficient to condemn the race. We find inferior strains cropping out in any and all races; but, in view of the fact that not a single bee-keeper in all these years, in all America, who makes the production of honey any considerable business, has adopted the Caucasian as his choice, and in view of the fact that very adverse reports have been made in several instances, does the reader deem it the part of wisdom at this time for our Government to "seed" the country with Caucasian blood? Even the Cyprians have their admirers among honey producers (and heaven knows they are bad enough) but let us hear from one or two Caucasian admirers with certified reports of their honey crops. We're listening. Hark!

Editor Root has for some time had a Caucasian in his bonnet. They are well adapted to the requirements of a first-class bonnet-bee, because they will not sting. In a recent number of *Gleanings Bro.* Root refers to this new hobby, again, as follows:

"I have just asked our Mr. Mel. Pritchard, who has charge of our bees, how our imported Caucasians are doing, and how their temper is compared with that of other bees. He says they are unquestionably the gentlest bees he ever handled. He has mauled the hives around in all sorts of shapes in cool weather and the bees paid no attention to it. He

can hardly make them show fight."

Now, if people kept bees merely for the pleasure of mauling them around stroking their fur and caressing them like a poodle dog, all this would be an incentive to put in Caucasians. But, as a general rule they do not. Most bee-keepers are like Dr. Miller—they prefer some honey, even if a few stings come with it. However, continuing to comment upon this interview with Mr. Pritchard, Mr. Root says:

"But they are unsatisfactory in one or two other respects. They do not know enough, he says, to take syrup out of a common feeder in the hives when they are short of stores. He has been trying to make them put the syrup into combs. But it is the old case of leading the horse to water, that wouldn't drink."

If Mr. Root's Caucasians are similar to those with which we have had to do, this trait should cause no surprise. Imagine a Caucasian going afoot upstairs to get something to eat out of a feeder. Hardly. Try thinning it just to the consistency of nectar. Bro. Root, warm it nicely and use a camel's hair brush individually. Dip the brush into the warm food and politely offer it. We think they could thus be induced to take sufficient to sustain life at least.

Mr. Root concludes his comment thus: "Another thing, if the weather is a little cool they will not venture out of the hive until an hour or an hour and a half after the other bees are out in the air. This may or may not be a desirable trait in chilly weather. At all events Mr. Pritchard thinks the bees are too good natured to be good for anything, and that this particular colony will need a lot of nursing to bring it through winter. On the other hand, the climate of the Caucasus regions is about the same as that of Italy or Florida. If the bees are able to survive in Russia they might not live through in our climate. Even if these bees are not quite equal to Italians for honey-gathering the fact that they are so very gentle will make them in demand with a large number."

We think, Mr. Pritchard is wise, and that he is a prophet, but we do not agree with Bro. Root that the mere trait of gentleness is sufficient to establish the Caucasian in favor with even a few.

The sarcasm is striking; Mr. Hill's reference to his experience with the Caucasians probably dates back to his tuition with our Mr. J. B. Hall of Woodstock, who spoke in no uncertain tones of his dislike to the breed at the recent Ontario Bee-Keepers' convention. In our opinion it will be best for Canadian Bee-Keepers to steer clear of these bees until they gain a better reputation. We have received the following letter from Mr. R. F. Holtermann along the same line:

Editor Canadian Bee Journal, Brantford, Ont.:

Dear Sir,—Unwisely, I think, and so do many others, the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., is arranging without a thorough test to distribute the Caucasian Bee. Mr. J. B. Hall condemns them strongly, and says after 23 years' effort to stamp them out their objectionable traits at times crop up in the apiary. Would it not be well for Canadian bee-keepers to suppress their curiosity and let the United States distribute them. We can wait a season and may keep ourselves from introducing at different points through the country what may be as objectionable as the English sparrow.

Yours, etc.,

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

✦

The Montreal Star reports that there is a better demand in the market for honey. Buckwheat honey is firm at 7c, white-clover honey is stronger at 8c to 9c, and comb honey 13c to 14c. The Toronto Sun reports the Toronto market 7½ to 8c for light extracted.

✦

Arrangements are being made for a "rousing meeting" of the bee-keepers of Brant and adjoining counties in the Court House, Brantford, January 24 to 26. We are looking for President Sibbald, of the Provincial Association, and a number of other prominent men from other parts of the province. We expect Mr. J. B. Hall of Woodstock to be with us and to take the chair.

HONEY IN THE WEST.

Editor C. B. J.:

The back numbers of the C. B. J. are to hand, for which I thank you. I take two American bee journals, but find the supply very incomplete without the home paper. Would be pleased to write occasionally, but scarcely feel justified in taking space where there are so many really able men; and, besides, my experience is rather limited, having only worked with bees a couple of years in Colorado and hardly more here.

The Colorado way and the Quebec way of handling bees are very different and it would not be likely to interest the eastern people to know how they do in the alfalfa regions.

While coming through British Columbia and the Northwest Territories last spring I made several enquiries regarding the price of honey. Would it not be possible to work up a better trade in Western Canada than we now have? The prices are extremely high west of Manitoba. Several samples of honey were given me to taste, all extracted and nearly all labelled "Californian Wild Rose Honey." I am willing to go on record for saying it never saw California. Quite likely, if the stuff could talk, it could tell what a cornfield looks like.

East of Regina it is not uncommon to see comb honey in the best stores, but to me the real thing in extracted was very rare west of that place. Is it not so that nearly all the glucose and adulterated honey is sold in places where little is known about real bees' honey? It seems to me that beekeepers need fear little from the adulterated. For a little energy on the part of the bee-man will establish his honey on the market and crowd the corn syrup stuff to the wall.

JOHN TITE.

Compton, Que.

ANNUAL MEETING ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

The Ontario Bee-Keepers' association held its twenty-sixth annual meeting in Toronto, November 15th, 16th and 17th, 1905.

The secretary read the minutes of the twenty-fifth annual meeting held at Toronto, which on motion of W. J. Brown, seconded by W. A. Chrysler, were confirmed.

President's Address.

I am pleased to have the honor of welcoming you to the twenty-sixth birthday of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association. Being at present a citizen of Toronto, I also bid you welcome to the city. Enjoy yourselves in convention as much as possible, but be careful in the city to "Keep out of the way of the street cars," and "Don't blow out the gas."

I read in a country paper the other day that city people are always careful to give country visitors the above instructions, but that a Hamilton man, while out at a country fair, was actually run over by a load of hay.

We meet in convention annually to talk about matters pertaining to the little bees and the honey they gather, and I venture to say that no one outside of our fraternity can understand the pleasure it is to exchange ideas and, copying from our pets, give "pointers" to others. While we may be somewhat dogmatic, and think our own system, the hive we use, the bees we have and the honey they gather, better than those possessed by others, still we learn much from these meetings, and, as a rule, you will find the members of our Association expert bee-keepers and better posted on all pertaining to apiculture than those

who do not avail themselves of the opportunity of joining with us and attending our meetings.

Since our last convention a very fair honey crop has been realized, especially in the western half of our Province, prices have been fair and the demand good, and so we meet under most favorable circumstances in this way, and, like bees in a good flow, are "good-natured." Our Honey Show, which was inaugurated last year, has now become an annual event, and the exhibition in the hall at present will do credit to our production, and should do much to bring honey more prominently before the people of this city and the Province, besides stimulating a worthy rivalry between bee-keepers to produce something better than has been produced.

The holding of this convention in Toronto will tend to centralize our meetings, and it might be wise for us to consider some means whereby a number of first-class, successful bee-keepers might be sent or be available to attend the local affiliated societies, thereby keeping these societies in closer touch with the parent society, and at the same time adding interest to their meetings.

Apiculture is advancing. Bee-keepers are adopting short-cut methods, which make it possible for a man to attend two or three hundred colonies, where a few years one hundred would have been sufficient, producing from 20 to 30 thousand pounds of honey, where ten thousand would have been considered big work. And while we are considering ways and means of cutting corners, we must not forget that the larger output will require a bigger market, else prices will go down. Our Association has here a field for work—to advertise honey and to educate the public to eat more honey. If people only understood how delicious

and wholesome, how cheap and economical, honey really is, they would use it far more largely as an every-day food. How many people realize that five pounds of honey can be obtained for the same money that two pounds of butter costs, and that many children would prefer it to butter, spread on bread. Thirty cents will buy a quart of honey, and it will go farther than two or three quarts of fruit. We should all seek to create a better home market for honey; it can be done.

Your committee have done their best to provide a program, including subjects of live interest and importance to bee-keepers at present, and it is the wish of your officers of 1905 that the most profitable convention that has been called will be the present one.

Mr. R. H. Smith—I was out until a few minutes ago trying to find better accommodation for our meetings. I don't know that I can add very much to what the president has said with regard to the advice to visitors to the city. We are very glad to hear that the honey crop is better this year than it was last year as far as the western part of the province is concerned. There are certain parts east of Toronto, however, where the crop has not been so good. As one of the oldest members of this association I might say that I have attended nearly all the meetings since 1880 and I have always found them profitable, not only with regard to what we can learn about bee-keeping, but we meet with bee-keepers that we don't see at any other time. I find meeting them here is better than hearing them through The Bee Journal. As our president has said, it is the means of taking the bee-keepers in short cuts and letting them know of new methods, and unless we keep the market up to the production the prices are sure to go down. I don't think it is necessary that prices should go down. They

are low enough now. People are only beginning to get acquainted with the value of honey and when it becomes better known it will be more popular, especially if the quality is better. That is one of the things we have to consider. That has been one of the causes why honey has not been used as freely as it should be used. I have heard that if you put a good quality of honey on the table it disappears very quickly, while it is hard to get rid of a second or third-class article. Now the advance in the quality of honey during the last few years has been very marked. I remember about twenty years ago when we got what we consider now second or third class honey, we thought it was first-class honey, both in comb and extracted. So that it is a point for us to consider. I think if you examine the exhibits in the hall you will find that the quality is as good as anything every shown in any exhibition on this side of the line. I hope, Mr. President, that we shall have a profitable meeting and that any who wish to learn anything may not go away disappointed, but will feel that they have benefited by coming here. (Applause.)

The President—As there is some dissatisfaction expressed about the room we are meeting in, I may say that this evening we will hold our meeting in the room immediately below this. The next item on the program is an address by the Minister of Agriculture, but as he could not be here this afternoon, I will call on Prof. Harrison for his address. The Minister of Agriculture will be with us to-morrow afternoon.

Professor. Harrison—Mr. Chairman Ladies and Gentlemen: I am sure it affords me a great deal of pleasure to meet with you her at this time in this very well ventilated hall (Laughter). I usually come before you with

rather a technical subject, but this year I thought that perhaps it would be better for me, as I was making my exit from my position as a director of the Association and a representative of the Agricultural College, to make my remarks a little more general than I have been in the habit of doing, and instead of speaking to you on a subject that causes so much discussion in these meetings, that of foul brood, I thought it better to say a few words about the means of diffusing apicultural knowledge. This is a subject that I have been thinking of for the last year or two and I have been led to think about it because I fancy this association is not doing all it might do to help bee-keepers, especially beginners, in the various parts of the province. Now what means has the association for getting their reports of the convention and the knowledge of the experts who attend these meetings before the people? First of all, you have by means of your publications, there is a first-class journal, The Canadian Bee Journal, and there is the annual report. With regard first of all to The Bee Journal. I don't know the circulation of that, but I believe that every member of the Association receives it and the same is also true of the report—only members of the Association receive that report and perhaps also the members of the Farmers' Institute. Now that is very excellent as far as it goes, but does it go far enough?

Are there not many who are interested in bee-keeping who would be benefited very greatly by some knowledge of bee-keeping as given in these journals. Let me instance first of all with regard to the Canadian Bee Journal. I don't want to take the editor to task at all—I don't wish to find fault at all, but as I am going out I think it is a fine opportunity to let you know what I am thinking of and I hope

I will not do injury at all by making the remarks. I think The Bee Journal, first of all, might increase its size and give us more of what is going on abroad. Now, I believe that a great many extracts are made from The American bee journals and they should receive first place because their conditions are much the same as we have here, but at the same time there are many articles coming out in European journals which I think should find a place in The Journal here. And then I think there should be something every month for beginners. Now that has taken place in some numbers of The Journal, but there are always beginners and you must remember that although they seem old facts to you there are a great many who would receive benefit from them. The same applies to the report. The thing that impressed me in the last meeting was the address by Mr. Hoshal. That address commended itself to me as being very plain, very practical and something that was altogether needed, not by you particularly, but by those who should like to get an idea of bee-keeping. I shall again have reference to that. That address will lead me on to another point which I wish to make. This meeting is the only one which this Association conducts during the year, and I think that it is a great mistake. I attended this year a meeting of another society, and during the meeting an enthusiastic member got up and said they should have more than one annual meeting a year. It was appreciated, of course. (Laughter.) But I think there should be more than one meeting a year of this Association, and if not more than one meeting, something should be done by the Association through the Department of Agriculture perhaps, to bring this to the attention of the fruit-growers particularly and those who are interested in

seed education and the farmers generally. Now, I mention these especially because the fruit-growers should be very much interested in the bees, because of the fertilizing power of the bee, and that is also true of the seed-grower. You have in that Association; an organization through which the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association could work with great advantage. Now, then, in the fruit-growers' meetings during the year, in the spring and during the summer at the various orchards for demonstrating the best method of spraying, it would be very easy for this Association to recommend speakers at those meetings to give them something about apiculture, and something about fertilization, and something about bee-keeping, and about how to raise bees and produce honey. And also at other times of the year, when they have meetings. Now, these are the times when you want to go right out to the farmer and give him some instruction. There you have an organization ready to hand, and all you would have to do would be to nominate certain speakers who would give a plain, straightforward account of the subject that you think should be laid before them.

Perhaps the first thing would be the suggestion that bee-keeping would not hurt the crops of the farmer, but would be good for them. There is an impression of that kind around, as some of you are aware. Well, that is one thing you could do for the Association. Then the next year you could give them instruction on bees, and the raising of bees—the best method; such an address, for example, as Mr. Hoshal gave here. I might say that Mr. Hoshal's paper was particularly interesting to those who wished to go into bees on a little larger scale and use the case system, but the second year's instruction should be given

along a well-defined line. Let the speakers come together at the beginning of the season and get them all primed along these lines. Then send them out.

Then during the winter we have another organization, that is the Farmers' Institutes. Now, we have speakers going out there all through the Province and why not have several representatives of the Bee-keepers' Association going out with these delegations in certain districts of the country where they think bee-keeping would be successful, and there give them instruction as to the proper care of bees. Now, I think this is work which the Association could very well undertake, and not only increase the membership of this Association, but it would be also a material aid to the farmers. It would give them another side-line. It would also be a direct benefit to the fruit-grower and the seedsman and the seed-grower, in the way I have already indicated.

Then the third method is for the Association to send out members—well-qualified members of the Association—to the meetings of the local societies. There should be no difficulty to get speakers, provided, of course, you have sufficient funds to carry all this work on. Send out speakers to certain local conventions. There are local societies scattered all over the province, and I am sure that a number of speakers from the Agricultural College would help in this work, and would give their aid in addressing the spring meetings of the local societies. These local societies are very valuable, as they are feeders of this central organization. So I think that is a third line upon which the Association might spend more time.

Now, I have already spoken in a brief way of the kind of demonstration, but, whatever you do, let the Associa-

tion send out the very best men possible. It is no good sending out a man who doesn't understand his business. Let him be able to present it in a clear, straightforward manner, and who can give information, if the Association needs it, along lines upon which they are not posted. That is, for example, about the fertilization of flowers and the fertilization of those plants which are grown of seeds. Now, upon these lines, probably the College at Guelph would be able to help you, though the Association, I am quite sure, could name off half-a-dozen or more members who are qualified to give addresses on the production of honey for extraction or for comb. I make these few remarks, and I hope you may be able to do something along these lines. This is the last meeting at which I shall be able to be present with you as a representative of the Agricultural College at Guelph. I have already left the College. I wish you all very great success upon the lines you are following. (Applause.)

The President—We are glad to have this address from Professor Harrison, and I am sure, even if he does go down to the other Province, we shall be glad to have him with us again. The ideas that he has put before us are good in some respects. There are some of us who might think we didn't want so many new beginners, but I will tell you one thing we want, and we could use that machinery, and that is, every man that keeps bees ought to be educated how to keep them right, and how to produce the best kind of honey. Now, it strikes me that perhaps you would like to discuss this matter. We have about half an hour before the next subject, so if any of the members would like to say anything along the lines of the address we would be glad to hear from them.

It was moved by Mr. Holtermann,

and seconded by Mr. Whiteside, that the meeting discuss this subject during the time available.—Carried.

Mr. Holtermann—While Professor Harrison was speaking I jotted down one or two thoughts that struck me, and one was that of getting more information from sources other than our own continent. I regret very much that we are not more in touch with European and so-called foreign bee literature, and if anything could be done to have these articles translated from the various languages and published in our Bee Journal we might get a good many valuable points. Perhaps we have been too much of the opinion—though perhaps in a sense correctly—that on this continent Canadians are second to none along the bee-keeping line. I am not going to contradict that, but when we go to Europe and get men there with time and means to investigate these subjects carefully we get a class of men rare in this country, and I know I get practical hints from the foreign journals which I value very much. Then the next subject, having more than one meeting a year. We in our section of the country are trying to do certain things along the line. The first is to have meetings quarterly—that is the county Bee-Keepers' Association. And then in the winter we have had district beekeepers' conventions and at these meetings practical things have been discussed, the various counties meeting together and having discussions. I hope the different adjoining counties will try and get together and discuss the practical questions that come up. It would be a great help to you all. Then the value of the bees in fertilizing plants. That is an important subject, one that we cannot talk too much about. I have come down here with the intention of bringing before you the desirability of getting the government

to carry on some experiments to show the value of the bees in fertilizing clover and buckwheat and so on, and in addition to that to notify all who have any evidence to the contrary to bring it along, and have it all printed at the same time. Now that would give a fair chance to both sides, and show the value of the bees in this regard. I could give you some things that are said that would startle you, that is about the damage that crops derive from the bees visiting them; and there are some here who could tell you of people who say the same thing. Now this year we find that in some places the alsike clover yield has been varied. Some places it has been good and some places it has not been worth threshing and I have found in every case that the larger yield has been in localities where bees were kept. I have three apiaries and the man with whom I had the bees said to me, "Well, Holterman, I don't know what has done it, but I never in my life had a better yield of alsike clover," and at Jarvis the alsike clover wasn't worth threshing. A man at Burford said to me, "This fall our alsike clover has amounted to nothing," and, he said, I know why it is. He said, we haven't got bees in our section. He said, can't you put some bees in our neighborhood? Now there are men who say that the bees are a positive disadvantage to the clover seed and to buckwheat, and so we have these things to contend with. Now there was one point that Professor Harrison has spoken of that is a rather sensitive one. In a sense it just depends on how we understand it. But I claim this that we don't want to do too much in the direction of getting more bee-keepers, and we are suffering from the fact that bee-keeping isn't made a business. It is looked upon in this way that anyone can keep bees and they keep them in a slipshod manner to a very great

extent, and we want to impress upon the people that there is very much to learn and that it is a business, and then teach them how to produce a good article, and in doing that we can have more permanent bee-keepers than at present, and we will have a better product upon the market and consequently a better market. In our house we had some honey and every one wanted it until it was finished and then we had another lot a little off, and yet at the same time wouldn't be considered a bad honey, and that was put on, and the result was that that jar lasted three times as long as the previous one. The public should be taught how to judge honey, and if that could be done it would compel bee-keepers to produce a better article and if they didn't they would have to go out of business.

Mr. Evans— I would just like to say that this Association has done something along the lines that Professor Harrison has spoken of. When I was president we got up a statement showing the advantages of this Association and showing a great many things in connection with bee-keeping that should be useful, and why they should join the society and about the Foul Brood act and all that sort of thing and we had them mailed to the bee-keepers but it seemed to be a hopeless poll after all for we only got one hundred members. So that it appears that the general public do not take very much interest in it. Then we had the lecture by Professor Fletcher with reference to the fertilization of flowers throughout the country, so that the bee-keepers have been doing something. I am quite in accord with the president that we don't want to go out in the highways and hedges and compel the people to become bee-keepers. I think if we went out and induced a large number of people to keep bees we would

In a very short time that we would not be able to sell our honey. People make a mistake in comparing honey with cheese and butter and things that have a good foreign market for we find that honey hasn't a good foreign market. There have been times when honey has only brought five cents a pound and any large increase in the production of honey would produce a glut in Ontario, and I don't think it is in our interest. I think the best way is to instruct a man how to keep bees and produce a good quality of honey, and on that line I think the address was a very good one.

Mr. W. A. Chrysler—I have been thinking for some time of education and educational advantages, and I think we should start with the young. Take the most successful bee-keepers in this country or in any other calling and they generally started young. I think this is a matter affecting the Board of Education for the Province. Every vocation in this country should be presented in all its phases in public and high school, and each child can then start on a calling which he takes a fancy to or prefers; he takes interest in that one line and becomes enthusiastic in it and when he follows it up he makes the most possible out of his chosen calling. Having started on one of those callings—bee-keeping, for example—I should then consider that Professor Harrison's suggestions are good, and I think we should do all we can to conduct ourselves and help each other in every possible way. But I find that a man that starts out late in life in any vocation usually makes a failure of it, more or less, and in other vocation does he make a greater failure than in bee-keeping.

Debt is slavery. It kills the sense of independent manliness.—A Young Man's reflections.

SOME USES OF THE SHALLOW EXTRACTING SUPER.

By Wm. L. Cooper.

The few remarks I have seen in the "Canadian Bee Journal" concerning shallow extracting supers have all been adverse. It is my object in this article to show another side of the question. The critics of these supers seem to have taken it for granted that they are intended to take the place of the deep super. They have tried them in this way and reported failure. I am not surprised. The deep super is far the best for general purposes but the other has its uses, and I claim for it the following advantages:

- (1) It is best for a weak colony in a rapid flow.
- (2) It is best for any colony in a very light flow.
- (3) It is most useful to induce bees to work in sections.
- (4) It is good to use in spring when a colony has about filled the lower story with brood and honey. If a full super be given at this time the strain of keeping the double story warm at nights is very severe.

This last point I do not desire to press. It is probably largely a matter of locality. My practice is to give a shallow extracting super full of worker combs to a colony as soon as it has got all frames but the two outer ones filled with brood. They will at once start brood-raising in the super. As soon as settled warm weather arrives I remove the shallow super, shaking off all the bees, and give a deep one instead. The shallow super with brood is given to a weaker colony. Repeated trials have proved to me that if the deep one be given at first the bees will do practically no work in it. Now for the other points:

- (1) My experience is that a weak colony will store very little honey in a full-depth super, even in a heavy

flow, and that little will be poorly ripened. It will fill and seal eight shallow frames in a surprisingly short space of time.

(2) A strong colony will generally do a certain amount of work in a full-depth super, even in a very light flow. They will do it much better and quicker in a shallow one, however.

(3) This point has been so thoroughly threshed out in some of the American bee journals that it seems hardly necessary to refer to it again. If bees show any unreadiness to start work in sections, give them a shallow extracting super. As soon as they are working freely in this replace with sections, leaving extracting super on top for a day or two. Then remove and give to a weak colony to finish.

I have no desire to compare shallow and deep supers, since, as I have pointed out, they are for different purposes, but this I will say in favor of the former—the shallow frames are lighter to handle, easier to remove bees from, quicker to uncap and far sooner sealed and ripened.

Cannington Manor, Sask.

THE SIBBALD METHOD.

Canadian Bee Journal:

I doubt if the Sibbald method will prove desirable, when increase is desired, with a crop of comb honey, or to be used during the honey crop as a preventative of swarming, although I shall test it another season, as any method is unsatisfactory when the crop is a failure, as it was this year.

When I do value this method, or a part of it, is in May, before the honey flow (which with us begins June 10 to 15) Some seasons quite a large percentage of colonies in comb-honey yards will prepare for swarming in May, and these colonies we treat on the Sibbald plan, as a method of re-

queening and to control swarming until the flow arrives. When the young queen begins laying we build up her colony with brood from the old colony, and this season, at least, these built-up colonies with the young queens did not attempt to swarm. I am making some boards like an escape-board, with entrance in front, and when using the Sibbald plan early in the season I plan to put the old hive and colony on this board, which will then form the floor of the upper hive and the lid of the lower hive. This will save the expense of an extra lid and floor, if no increase is desired.

One can easily secure a lot of fine Alley or Doolittle ripe queen-cells and practise this method of re-queening on a whole yard at such a time as to have the young queens begin laying as the flow opens, then kill the old queen and unite. Would they swarm if run for comb honey? I fear that some of them would.

E. F. ATWATER.

Idaho, U.S.A.

The highest service you can ever render the world, the greatest thing you can ever do, is to make yourself the largest, completest, and squarest man possible. There is no other far like that—no achievement like that.

DO NOT LET YOUR BEES D

If you have neglected to feed the or if it was too late and they did take down the syrup DO NOT ALLOW THEM TO STARVE, besides the loss IT IS CRUEL, IT IS WRONG.

Buy Devonshire Bee Candy and lean it on the top of the frames. In 1-cakes, 10c per lb. Medicated to prevent fould brood, 12½c.

Goold, Shapley & Muir Co. Limited

BRANTFORD, CANADA