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JANUARY 1905

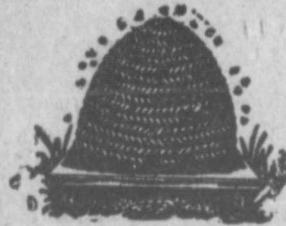
The  
*Canadian  
Bee  
Journal*

W. J. CRAIG, Editor

Published Monthly by  
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# The Canadian Bee Journal

Devoted to the Interests of Bee-Keepers

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Vol. 16, No. 1.

JANUARY, 1908

\$1 Per Annum

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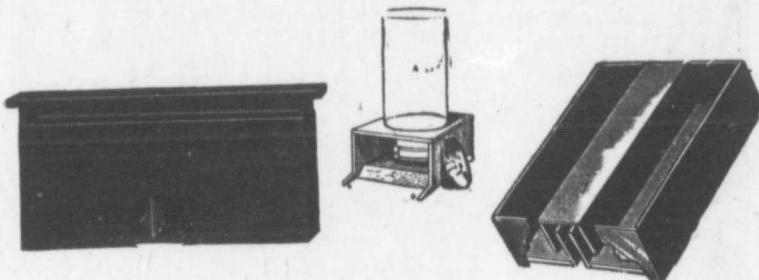
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JAN. 19

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## The Canadian Bee Journal

Devoted to the Interests of Bee Keepers

JAS. J. HURLEY, EDITOR

Published monthly by  
THE HURLEY PRINTING CO., Brantford, Ont.

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# The Canadian Bee Journal

Published Monthly

Vol. 16, No. 1.

JANUARY 1908

Whole No. 515

WE clip the following from Editorial notes and comments in American Bee Journal:—

The divergent views of writers on bee-culture is a source of perplexity to the beginner. A notable instance of this divergence of views occurs in the Canadian Bee Journal for October. F. P. Adams speaking of the harm done by late disturbance, says:

"The only safe way to overcome this difficulty is to prepare before the cool weather sets in, and our most successful apiarists recognize this fact by commencing their winter preparations at the close of the honey harvest. It is true that at this time the hives usually contain a lot of brood, but it is surprising what a quantity of syrup can be forced into the brood-nests by heavy feeding."

J. L. Byer says this: "While there is more danger of feeding too late rather than too early, experience has taught me that for various reasons, it is not wise to do much feeding previous to September 20."

Then comes Editor Hurley, saying. "Mr. Byer, in his notes appearing in this issue, urges feeding in Septemper. In our experience this would not be satisfactory. We prefer to feed when the last batch of brood has hatched. Wintering bees on empty brood-frames is dangerous."

Of Mr. Adams the editor says: "The pronounced success that he has had with his bees, makes anything he writes of great interest." Mr. Byer has for years conducted a department in the Canadian Bee Journal in a very able manner, and Editor Hurley may well be supposed to know something on the subject. After reading these three varying views from three authorities, and all under the same cover, is it any wonder the beginner should feel somewhat dizzy?

\* \* \*

Editor York has done us a service. Differing conditions make it impossible to lay down any hard and fast rules. Let us suppose friend York had added his opinion in a small paragraph at the foot of the above three, would the dizziness have been increased or lessened? It would have been very interesting to have seen it there. Mr. Byer and Mr. Adams are both well able to take care of themselves, therefore, of their contention we will say nothing. We will simply attempt to justify our own statement as above expressed. The nature of our honey flow is as follows:

Immediately after the clover flow, comes basswood. Immediately following this we have a long run of sweet clover. From

this, practically no surplus stores are obtained, but we believe from the way in which they work upon it, they get what we will term a "living." This permits the continued and uninterrupted rearing of brood, and keeps the bees well supplied until our buckwheat flow opens. All the colonies that are then in good shape generally secure at least a super full of buckwheat honey. This brings us up to the first of September. Brood rearing is all this time continuing with full force. We generally leave the buckwheat supers on until about the middle of September. This is to let the honey ripen well, and further because we are in no hurry to take the buckwheat honey off, until we are prepared to make preparations of wintering. When we examine our hives about the middle of September we find the brood chamber well stocked with brood. Mr. Adams says if fed early, they can store a surprising lot of honey in the brood chamber. True—but they cannot store it where there is brood. That is equally true. We find in our particular locality that brood rearing will continue up to October the first. In fact we have seen unhatched brood as late as October 15th. Now, it has happened when we have had lots of buckwheat honey—combs well filled and well sealed, we have given the bees these full combs to winter upon instead of feeding syrup. Therefore we do not want to lift our brood combs out of the brood chamber until all the brood has hatched. About the 15th of October we take these brood combs out and put in the well-

filled buckwheat combs. If, instead of this, we decide to feed syrup, we leave the brood combs where they are, and any time between the first and fifteenth of Oct. we feed. A Miller feeder is placed on top of the hive and is filled with warm syrup in the evening. The heat of the syrup arouses the bees by raising the temperature, and during the night and early hours of next morning the bees take it all down, and fill it in just where they are most likely to cluster during the winter on the combs, the outside combs, of course, being fairly well filled with sealed honey. This has given the writer entire satisfaction and justifies, in our opinion, late feeding, in our particular case at all events. We can quite understand that where the late fall flow that we posses does not exist, brood rearing will diminish much sooner, and that therefore earlier feeding would be quiet the proper thing to avoid the storing of honey dew. But even where early feeding is resorted to in circumstances of this kind, we still think it should be followed up with later feeding to secure the filling of that part of the brood comb last hatched out. Now, friend York, are we wrong? If so, we will be pleased to be put right by no less an authority than yourself.

Bee-keeping is a profession that cannot be carried on by any rule of thumb methods. It requires the exercise of the highest intelligence coupled with great discretion. This is a lesson the beginner must learn. We have learned it ourselves at considerable cost. It is the function and

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duty of the writers of bee literature to explain these cases of "dizziness." It is by fully discussing and explaining these apparent discrepancies, that the intricacies of bee-keeping are finally evolved. The science of bee-keeping is potential with mysteries and improvements that may yet be solved and attained, but we cannot attain these if we throw up our hands and get "dizzy." Hence our great regret that the good editor did not add his opinion before giving way to "dizziness." Now Mr. Byer and Mr. Adams may take the floor and use the lash upon us if they see fit.

\* \* \*

THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, since passing into the hands of the Hurley Printing Co., has taken on new life in a wonderful way. If the present excellence is maintained, it will become one of the best bee journals ever published in Canada.—Bee-Keepers' Review.

Thanks friend Hutchinson. You are very kind to give the three months old editor such encouragement. Will keep the excellence of the REVIEW before us as an ideal to aim at.

\* \* \*

In the issue of December 15th Gleanings illustrates its new home. It is enough to make an enterprising printer envious. The A. I. Root Company has shown

commendable enterprise in the development of their business. It requires great intelligence to have any idea of the enormous task of publishing semi-monthly a Journal like Gleanings in Bee Culture. An

We have considered a enormous amount of capital and labour is behind it. As a Bee journal it stands without a rival.

We wish its promoters every success. The Editor says:

Many of our readers, especially those who have been with us almost from the very beginning, and have watched us grow, will be glad to read the publisher's statement given on p. 1549 of this issue. We feel that whatever material progress Gleanings has made is due very largely to our subscribers, who have so kindly furnished us gleanings and heads of grain from many fields. When A. I. Root, the founder of this journal, first started it he had in mind the making of a paper that would be the work of practical men, their fingers possibly daubed with bee-glue while writing on the cover of a bee-hive an article for Gleanings. We have tried to encourage and develop just such writers. The fact that the journal has grown from a little quarterly of 16 pages to an illustrated semi-monthly of 60 pages, with an actual circulation of 34,000, shows what has been done in all these years. The editor desires at this time to express his thanks to those of our friends who have taken such an active interest in making the journal what it is.

While A. I. Root has long since retired from the active field of agriculture and apiculture journalism, his influence is felt in a larger and more important way in the department of "Our Homes." It is true, perhaps, that some of our agricultural readers may not care to read these lay sermons, yet we are of the opinion, judging from the correspondence that is streaming in constantly, that three-fourths of our subscribers consider A. I. Root's work a very important feature of the journal—not because what he has said may have led to material prosperity, but because it has turned their attention to things far more precious than gold or silver, of a kind that fadeth not away.

We trust our readers will take particular notice to the following sentence:—"We feel that whatever material progress Gleanings has made is due very largely to our subscribers, who have so kindly furnished us gleanings and heads of grain from many fields." Just so. Herein lies the

secret of the success of a bee journal. We hope this lesson will not be lost upon our Canadian friends. A. I. Root's writings in the department of "Our Homes" is a tower of strength to Gleanings, notwithstanding the fact that much therein written all may not agree with. We are at one with him, however, on the temperance question. More power to his pen!

\* \* \*

The election of the officers of the National Bee-Keepers' Association has resulted as follows:—President, Geo. E. Hilton; vice-president, G. W. York; secretary, W. Z. Hutchinson; general manager, N. E. France; directors, Wm. McEvoy, Woodburn, Canada; E. W. Alexander, and R. C. Aikin. The vote is highly complimentary to Canada, in that Wm. McEvoy received the largest vote of any of the directors, the number of his votes being 500. The next meeting will be held in Detroit in the fall of 1908. It will be very convenient for the attendance of Canadians. Let there be a good delegation. The splendid feelings of reciprocity between the bee-keepers of the United States and Canada is one of the outstanding good things that should be encouraged.

\* \* \*

Miss Trevorow has in this issue a thoughtful, chatty and witty contribution. We trust that she may continue to contribute, and that others may take her advice. Her patriotism is of the right sort. We are very much encouraged at the interest that is being shown by our readers. Articles have been com-

ing in freely, as also has new subscriptions. The Department of Agriculture has given us the names of two thousand bee-keepers in Ontario. We have to thank our genial secretary, Mr. Hodgetts, for this. It involved no small amount of labor. We are sending out circulars to these two thousand. Many of our readers and subscribers may be among them. If such be the case, pass the circular along. The discussion at our late Convention showed clearly that those most in need of the Bee Journal were those who took no bee journal, and who experienced such great losses during the last winter and spring.

\* \* \*

Prof. Cook, p. 1496, thinks it likely that if eggs of the bee-moth are laid just outside the hive "the wee larva will, as soon as it is hatched, betake itself to the combs." If Prof. Cook said he knew that to be so I'd take his word for it; but as he only says it is likely, I greatly doubt it. Has any one ever seen a young bee moth larva of its own accord as much as  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch distant from its base of supplies?—DR. C. C. MILLER, in Gleanings.

Right you are, Dr. We would be inclined to disbelieve it, even if the good Professor said he did know it.

\* \* \*

It was our intention when we took over the Journal last October to enlarge its dimensions the first issue of the new year. We have, however, changed our minds in deference to the number of protests we have received. Many would like their bound volumes to continue in uniformity. They claim, also, that the present size is the most convenient to handle and read. Any increase, there-

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We are receiving a French  
Bee Journal, "Revue Universelle,"  
which we would like to pass on  
to some one of our French readers  
who would give us translations of  
any items that may be thought of  
interest to our Canadian readers.  
Unfortunately for us, we must plead  
ignorance of the French language.

\* \* \*

We would again remind our  
readers of the Brant district con-  
vention, which convenes in  
Brantford on Jan. 21st, 22nd, 23rd,  
at the Court House. Several  
prominent bee-keepers have  
stated their intention to come.  
It cannot fail to be very interest-  
ing and instructive. Mr. H. G.  
Sibbald will be on hand with a  
new and complete wax extractor  
of his own design, and will ex-  
plain same fully. The first  
session begins at 7.30 p.m. on  
Tuesday, the 21st.

\* \* \*

Mr. Henry D. McIntyre, of Galt,  
Ont., writes us as follows:—"I  
took special notice of your method  
of outdoor wintering in the last  
C. B. J. That is the honey board  
prayed loose. According to my  
experience that is good advice.  
Mr. J. Alpaugh advised me to do  
the same thing, and he has been  
successful. What size entrance  
do you recommend for medium  
to strong colonies in eight frame  
hives with honey board loosened?  
What has been your average  
winter loss for the last two years  
with the honey board loosened?"

Mr. Alpaugh is a good bee-  
keeper, and we are glad to know

that his idea and practice co-  
incides with our own. Our winter  
entrance is about 4 inches by half  
for all colonies strong and weak;  
and frequently during the winter,  
when keeping the entrances free  
from snow, we run a doubled up  
piece of wire into the entrance to  
ensure its being kept open, and  
not blocked up by ice or dead  
bees or other causes. This  
should be done at least half a  
dozen times during the winter,  
and especially in the early spring,  
when the bees begin to get active  
and start house-cleaning. What  
our winter losses have been dur-  
ing the past two winters we really  
could not say, as we kept no  
systematic record thereof. They  
have been very small, however.  
We think we can say truthfully  
that we lost no hive that retained  
its queen and was populous enough  
to come through. We have  
brought through some hives that  
was so light in bees that we  
hardly expected to see them alive  
in the spring.

The HAM & NOTT CO. new  
season's Catalogue of Bee-  
Keepers' Supplies just issued  
is one of the neatest publications  
of the sort we have come across.  
The line of goods offered is very  
comprehensive, and the cuts and  
descriptive matter full and clear.  
The Company purpose giving this  
new department of their business  
special attention, and bee-keepers  
will find that their wants will be  
carefully and promptly attended to.  
Anyone can have a copy of  
the list referred to by dropping a  
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Limited, successor to Goold,  
Shapley & Muir Co., Brantford, Ont.

## Notes and Comments

BY J. L. BYER

In Gleanings for December 15 Mr. Allen Latham gives some interesting data relative to amount of stores consumed by colonies wintering outdoors during the months of December, January, February, and March. On December 1st 30 colonies were weighed, and again on April 1st. The result showed the surprisingly low average loss of a little less than 8 pounds per colony. Mr. Latham takes it for granted that outdoor wintering and cellar wintering are on a par with the first of December, and after the first of April in his locality; and hence naturally concludes that there is not the difference in consumption of stores in favour of cellar wintering that has been generally credited to that system. In the opening of his article he wonders how many bee-keepers know by actual trial how much their colonies consume during the four months of inactivity. In common I suppose with many others, the writer pleads guilty to not knowing by "actual trial"; and while the average loss of Mr. Latham's colonies is much less than I would have guessed, yet from observation of cellar wintered bees around me, I have never believed there was as much difference in matter of stores consumed as has often been claimed by advocates of cellar wintering. It is interesting to note that these 30 colonies, with the exception of two weak ones, had entrances wide open—one inch deep and thirteen inches wide—all winter long. Editor Root, commenting on this fact, thinks that such a wide

entrance would prove disastrous in more northern localities, and broadly hints that even in Mr. Latham's locality (Norwich, Conn.) still better results would be obtained if smaller entrances were used. Be that as it may, while I have never tried as large entrances as advocated by Mr. Latham, yet I would sooner risk the **VERY LARGE** entrances than the **VERY SMALL** ones as advocated by some. With me the latter nearly always spell disaster; and with very strong colonies I would not be afraid of the extra large entrances, provided the colony had abundance of protection over and around the hive. In the same issue of Gleanings friend Bowen of Niagara Falls gives some equally interesting figures relative to the amount of stores that will be added to a hive by feeding a given amount of thin syrup at different periods.

Of syrup made of equal parts of sugar and water a colony was fed 6 lbs. at each feed on the following dates:—Sept. 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 15, and 17th, in all 42 lbs. of syrup or 21 lbs. sugar. On September 19 the colony weighed 19 lbs. more than on Sept. 6, before any syrup was given. Here, again, I am surprised at the results, as in some colonies, fed in practically the same way this past September, I feel sure the loss was much greater than was the case with Mr. Bowen's bees. But as I did not weigh my hives before or after feeding, I have no figures to offer. By way of excuse for such lax methods, would say that my hives are nearly all packed and quite bulky, which makes weighing very difficult. How do I know if they are heavy enough for winter? Simply by

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looking over the frames in the early fall, and being sure always to err on the safe side. I know some good bee-keepers—among them Mr Sibbald—who use a single walled hive, and yet rely upon their judgment, instead of going to the trouble of weighing each hive.

While scales may be the SUREST way to guard against light colonies, still with the majority of experienced bee-keepers they are a by no means an absolute necessity. In connection with the subject of consumption of winter stores, it just now occurs to me, as I write, that a few years ago Mr. Sibbald was telling me that he had proven by actual experience that cellar wintered bees consumed much less during winter than did those left in the summer stands. Last spring friend Sibbald reported splendid success in wintering one apiary outdoors, and as near as I can determine he will continue to winter that same yard on the summer stands. While I am not insinuating that such is the case, yet I wonder if it is barely possible that he may have revised his opinions as to excessive consumption of stores.

My own very limited experience with cellar wintering has led me to think that the actual consumption of stores while in the cellar was somewhat less than in colonies outdoors, owing to the fact of more brood rearing going on in the latter. But after being set on the summer stands, the stores of cellar wintered bees would disappear in a hurry, and by the time of fruit bloom the cellared bees were in some cases LIGHTER than others that had been outdoors all winter.\*

A. C. Miller, in Dec. issue of the Ameriean Beekeeper, writing under the caption, 'The Controlling of Swarms,' says:—" All queens are clipped before they are introduced, and if a swarm issues in my absence the queen is usually lost in the grass, and the bees returning, settle down to business, and accept one of the young queens. Now and then a swarm departs, but the loss does not begin to equal the cost of preventing it. It took me a long time to find that out, but I am now convinced that such is the case."

Mr. Miller says his strain of bees is not prone to swarm, and unless locality or some other factor enter into the proposition, I can well believe that his bees are out of the ordinary as far as swarming is concerned.

Certainly, with me, if an old queen is lost by being clipped when swarm issues, just as soon as a young queen is able to fly, the bees will swarm EVERY TIME, even if at the close of the honey season and no honey coming in.

It makes no difference whether the bees are Blacks, Carniolans, or Italians, under the conditions outlined, a swarm will always issue. In August of 1906 Mr. Jacob Alpaugh was at my place, and in walking through the apiary, I pointed out three very strong colonies which I knew had queens three years old; in fact one queen was FOUR years old, and as a consequence I was desirous that these colonies should be re-queened before going into winter quarters. The honey season was just at a close, and practically no nectar was coming, or did come in for nearly three weeks. Friend Alpaugh's

opinion was asked as to what would be the action of those colonies if their queens were hunted out and destroyed, and he predicted that they would be quite sure to swarm. As we expected to be around home and in a position to be in the yard every day for a time, by dint of hard work in the early morning the three queens were found and destroyed, and the bees allowed to build queen cells at their own sweet will. In two out of the three swarms, results were as anticipated by Mr. Alpaugh, I admit, much to my surprise. Remember, these colonies had never offered to swarm during the honey flow, although very strong all the time, yet on removal of the old queens they would swarm even when there was no honey coming in. Do not understand me to favour this method of re-queening; the experiment was simply carried out to see whether swarming would take place or not. At different times just at the close of the honey flow I have neglected to make a thorough examination of an out-yard to find out swarming intentions, and whenever old queens were lost, swarms would issue after the flow was over; in fact I have lost more swarms at that season of the year than at all other times combined. As we do not get much of a fall flow, swarms are not of much value, and consequently in the rush of the work we are not so particular in looking into every hive, as is the case in the earlier part of the season. Anyway, I am positive that if we were to trust to the bees to "settle down to business and accept one of the young queens," instead of "now and then a swarm departing," every

colony that would have the privilege of raising a young queen would, if not prevented, depart for parts unknown.

R. F. Taylor, of Lapeer, Mich., is strongly opposed to the practise of queen clipping. In Dec. Review he gives his reasons, and thinks that he has made out a good case against clipping queens, but personally methinks stronger reasons than those given by friend Taylor will have to be produced before the host of extensive producers who practise clipping will be induced to abandon the system. Attention is called to the fact that when more than one swarm issues at the same time with clipped queens, there is apt to be a lot of mixing. This is true, but some of the worst cases of "mixing" we ever experienced was when the queens were not clipped. And in such cases queens were balled, and the final results not nearly as satisfactory as when we were able to have each queen in a separate cage and divide up the mass of bees pretty much as desired. Mr. Taylor points out that where the first swarm for the day clusters, subsequent swarms are apt to follow suit, and if perchance said first swarm should light on a high tree, and any following swarm HAPPEN to have a flying queen, a number of swarms will be lost. In a number of years' work with clipped queens, to the best of my knowledge the combination of high trees, flying queen and a large mass of bees, has not yet occurred; and while such a condition is no impossibility, yet the chance is so remote as not to occasion any alarm. Mr. Taylor further

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## A SPLENDID WINTERING CASE

BY D. MEUSER

I have sent you, under a separate cover, a picture of part of our apiary of 55 colonies, run for extracted honey. The other part is on the other side of the honey house, and would look much better on a picture, but the sun was just setting and the light was not favor-

to set in four colonies, back to back, with four inches space for packing all around. The alighting board is made of two pieces 2 in. and 3 in. wide, fastened together with a small butt hinge. The outer 3 in. piece acts as a door when closed, and serves to keep the snow from the entrance during winter, and also to keep the sun from shining into the entrance in the



PACKING CASE USED BY MR. D. MEUSER

able to the photographer. The other is a picture of the packing case I use. It is made in six parts of half-inch pine (except the floor, which is  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. pine flooring,) and is put together with hooks and eyes. It is also made deep enough to accommodate a full depth super on top of the brood chamber if it is found necessary, and large enough

spring, and thus alluring the bees to fly out and die, when the weather is too cold for them to return.

[Your alighting board in two pieces is very ingenious and useful. It is quite a nuisance to be hunting up boards to lean against the case to shade the entrance, and often times they are blown down. —Ed.]

**WINDBREAKS****HOW TO MAKE CANVAS SHIELDS**

BY A. J. HALTER IN GLHANINGS

When the forest is being deprived of its foliage it behooves the bee-keeper to make final preparations for wintering bees, especially those located in the northern regions.

A great many bees are placed in cellars, and some in trenches, while a large part are left on their summer stands, in which case wind-breaks are of great value. However, for some reason these wind-breaks are greatly neglected, lumber and labor at times being quite an item.

The past two seasons I have used canvas, such as is used on harvester machinery or straw-carriers, and find it quite durable. It is from 4 to 5 ft. in width. A great many binders or farm machinery are yearly sent out on trial, and are returned, slightly used, to their respective agencies. The canvas, however, is generally replaced before the machine is again offered for sale. This canvas can be purchased at a reasonable price, and by giving it a coat of oil it is made waterproof.

When the bees are all packed for winter, drive a few fence-posts and tack the canvas against the posts for several hours, and the work is done. During summer remove the canvas and roll it up until again needed for future use.

Bees wintered in cellars by all means should be protected by wind-breaks when set out in spring. During March and April, bees that fly out in search of pollen or water become chilled by the cool winds, and are lost in great numbers within a few feet of their hives. This has

a tendency to weaken the colonies, causing what is known as "spring dwindle." When windbreaks are provided, bees do not come in contact with these cool currents of air unless they venture a certain distance; and when returning home they are apt to arrive more safely when once within the boundary limits of wind breaks.

The past season has certainly proven the value of protection against wind and chilly weather.

A few dollars spent in this direction will be a great benefit to the bees. Now is the time to make preparations.

MAN moves in a mysterious way his blunders to perform.—Hubbard.

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## **FOUL BROOD**

By Wm. McEVoy.

From 1875 to 1890 I had been curing diseased apiaries in a private way for the bee-keepers, and from 1890 to 1907 I had charge of the whole Province under the Government, which placed me in a position to find out and learn more about the true condition of things than any man in the Province of Ontario.

Now what did I find is the question and the one that I will answer first. I found foul brood in 37 counties and 11 cities. Did it originate in these 37 counties and 11 cities? No, positively no, it did not. This awful spread of foul brood was all the result and outcome of selling and shipping of diseased colonies all over Ontario. In the fall of 1889 Mr. Gemmill saw that the whole bee industry of Ontario was going to be wiped right out if something was not done, and done promptly to stamp out foul brood, and it was through the untiring efforts of Mr. Gemmill that the Foul Brood Act was passed in 1890, and to Mr. Gemmill belongs the credit of saving the bee industry of the Province of Ontario.

I was appointed inspector in 1890, and the first thing I did was to ask the Government to get 10,000 foul brood bulletins published with my methods of curing diseased apiaries of foul brood. I knew that I was going up against a mountain of work, and wanted these bulletins to help me out. These were published 9,500 in English and 500 in German, just what I asked for. I then started on my rounds through the Province and before leaving a place I reported to Mr. Pringle (the President)

how I found things, and where I was going to next.

In the Canadian Bee Journal for Sep. 1890, Mr. Pringle reported that his "astonishment was ripened into dismay" at what I was finding. In that letter to the Journal Mr. Pringle gave me great credit for the curing that I was doing and the way that I managed the business. It was a big job to get diseased apiaries cured by wholesale in 37 counties and 11 cities where foul brood colonies had been shipped into, and from them had spread to other apiaries. The disease had to be hunted up and pointed out to the people and every one fully instructed how to cure their diseased apiaries of foul brood, and then given every possible chance to do so.

In 1903, the Department of Agriculture thought that it would be a good thing to get me to write up my methods of curing diseased apiaries of foul brood, and have it sent out in the Annual Report of the Ontario Bee-Keepers Association. I agreed to this, and asked to have it sent out in 20,000 bulletins besides, 18,000 in English, 1,000 in French and 1,000 in German. All this was done. No Province or State in the world had as much foul brood at one time as the Province of Ontario once had. I got many hundreds of apiaries cured in my time that were once in a bad state with foul brood.

The remnants of the disease that spread from the sales of foul brood colonies will soon be cured.

"Some people," remarked the demoralizer "never seem to be around when wanted."

"Well," rejoined the moralizer, "it is better to be absent when wanted than to be present when you are not wanted."

## INTERESTING GERMAN ITEMS

Translated by JACOB HABERER, Zurich, Ont.

### The East African Bees and the Negro.

If the negro finds a colony of bees, he will smoke them out and take possession of the combs; he will not fear a few stings. He puts up his booty in a practical way: An underlayer of banana leaves will serve him as a solid package, a few twigs and ferns on top, and then tightened with a number of vines and so adjusted that it will form a good handhold. By the appearance of the bundle no one would suspect such a sweet content. If my servant, a cunning Mschumba negro, a very good bee-hunter, comes home from such an expedition; he carries in one hand a bundle weighing about 10 lbs, shaped like a large cabbage head; in the other one, something lighter. Do you want honey Bawana (Mister)? If I say yes, he will set the large package on the table, on opening the same a blinding white lot of combs floating in honey on the green leaves will appear. His price is 54 farthings for about 4 Kilo. (4 lbs.) of pure comb honey. Strained honey is worth from 8—15 cents for a beer-bottle full. The small bundle is for his own use; on request he will open it and show you some brood combs. My astonishment will elicit from him the explanation: that these tender, white little creatures in the cells, just before they get sealed and even partly sealed ones, would make the most delicious meal a man could think of, and would give him great strength. He then showed how he would boil them in a pot and eat pounds of them at one meal. The man may be right.

I told him he would destroy the bees by eating their children, but he was wise enough, and said he left all the little ones, so he could get more of the choice honey and brood combs in the same place, as soon as the wet cold weather would be over. We see here that even the roughest, uncultivated African will try to preserve the natural source. That the bees are very important for that colony may be seen from the fact: that in the first quarter of 1905 from the German-East-African Coast alone 93,202 Kilogram (about 190,000 lbs) to the value of \$51,210 were exported. This product stands in third line of the export goods, only rubber and copra ahead of it. Lately the bees increased fast in the neighborhood of the European plantations, so that they are rather a little troublesome about dwelling houses. The most of their honey they get from the rubber tree, but it has a bitter flavor and is not fit to eat, so the compensation in the rubber plantations is thus very small for the trouble they cause there.—*Müncher Bienenzeitung*.

### Bee-Keeping and Prosperity.

After 14 years I returned again to that part of the country where I started bee-keeping, and visited many bee-keepers. To my surprise I found mostly that the good, careful bee-keeper was also a good housekeeper, and prosperity existed. On the contrary, even well-off but careless and neglecting bee-keepers were, as a rule, in miserable circumstances, and as poor householders. If we open our eyes and look around neighbors and members, and find their bee-stand in proper shape, we will find the household also in

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good order. Just as the bee-stand is, so the keeper, and as the keeper, so the bee-stand. If anyone would ask me, "How is such and such a man getting along? Can I give him credit?" I would say, "Take a look at his bee-stand, and you will be informed."—Hans Heiger, in Muncher Bienenzeitung.

#### Ripe Honey.

A sure sign of honey being ripe enough: If you hold a comb with adhering bees horizontal for two minutes and no honey will drop out the same is ripe enough, no matter whether the honey were sealed or not, if only part of the cells are contracted.—(The Biene.)

In a recent German article about foul brood, it says: "In Denmark, good results were obtained with the American methods of Mr. William McEvoy."

#### EARLY CLIPPING OF QUEENS

BY JAS. STORER

Friends Byer and Holtermann are having a little friendly scrap in the bee journals over opening hives and clipping queens' wings in March. When two professional doctors cannot agree, how are the novices to decide which is right? Locality bears the blame of a good many differences of opinion on nearly all the subjects written on in bee-keeping, and it looks as if it had something to do with this case too. Friend Holtermann lives away in the south and west where we might expect the weather to be a little milder than in the county of York, where Mr. Byer lives, and still a little further north, in Victoria County, where I live.

While Mr. Holtermann may be clipping queens' wings in March, our bees, if wintered in cellar, are not out of their winter quarters till March is all gone; and if outside the shade boards or front of hives are not removed till the first or second week in April, some seasons perhaps a little earlier, and some a little later. From a note in my diary, I find bees were taken out of cellar last year, March 30th, all alive. It would have been better for them to have stayed in winter quarters another month. The chief point of discussion, however, seems to be the loss of queens by early opening of hives. My experience is the same as friend Byers'. I have found queens bald—their wings torn off and in general poor condition, and the hive soon raises a new queen. That is almost a total loss for that hive in our part of the country.

My practice for years has been to commence the work inside the hive when honey begins to come in. You can then do a great deal more work in the same number of hours than can be done in the very early part of the season.

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## SUGGESTIONS FOR BEGINNERS

BY H. A. SMITH

The question has often been asked: "When does a beginner cease to be a beginner?" The question has never been answered, yet every bee-keeper can look back and remember the time when he got over some of his "squeamishness" and blundering, and commenced to do things which ignorance and fear prevented him from accomplishing during the first few seasons of his bee-keeping experience.

At the same time the element of fear or nervousness often causes beginners to manipulate their bees in a way which resembles straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel. A beginner thinks it must be a beginner's lot to have to climb trees and chase around after swarms, putting himself in danger of breaking his neck or getting badly stung, but he almost faints at the idea of clipping the queen's wing to prevent all this. I might say right here that I am writing this from experience. It was a great wonder I did not kill the first queen I tried to clip. I had always worn harvester's pig-skin mitts when working with my bees; I clearly saw that I must discard them if I wished to succeed in doing those numberless things which grow to be a necessity as one's apiary enlarges. I therefore got a pair of fingerless gloves, and proceeded to clip my first queen. I had to screw my courage up to a terrible pitch to handle those bees with bare fingers in looking for the queen. At last I found her, and managed to catch her between thumb and forefinger. My hand shook; my fingers spread apart; and her majesty dropped to

the ground. It was not such a hard job taking hold of her now she was away from the rest of the bees, and so I lost some of my nervousness. I clipped her wing without receiving a sting during the whole operation. Before night I had opened hives which were nearly search-proof and clipped their queens. Let me say to the beginner who has not yet clipped his queens: clip two queens if you nearly collapse in doing so; after that you will want to clip everything in sight.

Some beginners never get to be anything else. The more a beginner observes and studies his business the sooner he ceases to be a beginner. One of the things which I soon learned was that bees are much less apt to sting close to the hive than a few feet away. In handling frames of cross colonies, they seem to think your hands are part of the frame, and crawl over them without stinging, but they are very apt to sting your hands if they come in contact with them away from their home a few feet. When the beginner realizes this fact, he will be taking one more step toward getting out of the beginners class.

A beginner is very apt to fool away a lot of time and money in trying different hives and appliances. When he realizes that the man and not the hive governs his success, and finally settles down to one kind of hive, it is another sign of the "beginner ceasing to be a beginner." I don't mean to say that just any kind of a hive will answer, because there are hives used by some men which I would not use if they were given to me and paid to use them.

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preliminary experience of nearly all who take up bee-keeping. I am not in favor of learning everything by experience, but the things I have mentioned are generally overcome only by experience, as very little help is given the beginner along these lines in bee literature. The journals of to-day are the greatest help to those who can largely help themselves, and many a beginner gives up in despair before he gets fairly started. Common sense has much to do with a beginner's advance, but when his apiary grows to fifty or more colonies, then he simply has to "cease to be a beginner," or cease to be a bee-keeper.

The beginner must not suppose that all the perplexing questions are solved when he shakes off some of his fear and awkwardness. It is likely he will decide he knows far less than he thought he knew, when he used to climb around trees, hiving swarms. However, it is the unsolved questions which give the charm to our occupation. There would be no fun at all in bee-keeping for me if there was nothing to find out.

A beginner ceases to be a beginner before he realizes it. He catches on to the numberless necessary kinks, and then when he looks back upon his old way of doing things, it seems years and years ago, and causes a queer sort of chill when he imagines himself running his bees by his old methods.

The queen is the foundation of the whole colony, and therefore I will ask you to excuse me for saying something more about her. There are a number of reasons why she should be clipped. Veterans know them, and a beginner finds out in time. About that time he may have thirty or forty colonies. Some

fine day, several colonies will take a notion to swarm at the same time, and cluster together, queens and all. I am not going to suggest a remedy for this mix-up, but I would have every beginner prevent it by clipping his queens and keeping them at home. Another advantage in clipping is in keeping track of the age of queens. She should not be allowed to live over two years, unless she is a very choice breeder.

As I said before, a bee-keeper never gets to "know it all" about his business. Perhaps this is a good thing, however, as it acts as a safety-valve in preventing over-crowding our occupation. It is largely a business of detail, and only the best men survive the beginners' stage, and come to the top after heavy losses, and eventually make a success of bee-culture.

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THE election of U. S. National B-K. A. officers resulted as follows: president, Geo. E. Hilton; vice-president, Geo. W. York; secretary, W. Z. Hutchinson; general manager, N. E. France; directors, Wm. McEvoy, E. W. Alexander and R. C. Aikin.

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THE HURLEY PRINTING CO. would be glad to hear from any bee-keepers who may be in need of business stationery or labels of any kind. It is our intention to prepare a special label for ten and five pound pails. We would be very pleased to receive a few samples of labels from those using them, in order that we may have a better idea of what may be required in this line. We can supply immediately letter heads, bill-heads, envelopes or anything in printing that you may need.

**HOW TO CHECK SWARMING  
AND GET THE GREATEST QUANTITY OF  
EXTRACTED HONEY**

BY WM. McEVoy

When the right time comes to put supers on all strong colonies in either 8 or 10 Langstroth hives (or any other of this size) I lift a comb of brood up into the super and leave the queen excluder off just then so that the queen can go up, a thing she will quickly do, and in a few days the super will be filled with brood. I then raise this super up and put on another one, but before doing this I lift up two combs of brood into it. Shake the queen below, and then put on the queen excluder. In about six days later I lift up two more combs and put two empty combs in their place, for the queen to use, as she will by this time be found wandering over the combs of brood, hunting for cells to lay in. The lifting up of brood and the putting of empty combs time after time in the centre of the brood chamber brings a greater increase in bees, and has always given me much larger returns in extracted honey than I could ever get any other way.

We will now turn our attention to one of the most valuable parts of all, and that is the brood I lifted above the queen excluder where it was FED SO WELL and left there until ALL CAPPED. In the fore part of the season I take part of this FITTED UP BROOD from one super and part from another until I get enough to suit me and then tier it up here and there on colonies not so strong, and have it all hatched out on these in a few days without the loss of one cell of brood. This booming of several colonies with so

much ALL CAPPED BROOD builds them up so fast that when the real honey flow comes on I don't find much difference in any of the colonies in the whole apiary. Bees run this way work with much more vim, snap and life than I could ever get them to do under any other system. Of course it will be noticed that I run the queens for all they are worth, a thing I certainly do, and with the exception of a few very choice queens I requeen every colony every year.

In the Canadian Bee Journal for November, page 350, Mr. Wm. L. Couper asks how to get the greatest quantity of extracted honey. I have written this in answer to Mr. Couper's question.

[The above was intended for the December issue for Mr. Couper's benefit, but was not to hand early enough to secure insertion. However, it is equally timely in this issue. We venture to say that many others may well profit by the method suggested. For the last two years we have followed this plan ourselves—having received the hint from Mr. McEvoy—and we can truly say that its results are surprising.—ED.]

"JAS. J. HURLEY, the new editor of Canadian Bee Journal, says in that journal, page 296, 'Ontario bee-keepers ought to be proud of the fact that they have among them a man of such world-wide distinction as Mr. McEvoy, of Woodburn. Right you are, friend Hurley; and what a good fellow Mac is besides.' —DR. C. C. MILLER, in Gleanings.

ONE opportunity is enough for the man who knows how to take advantage of it.

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### HEATING HONEY TO PREVENT GRANULATION.

On Saturday, Dec. 7th we had a very pleasant call from Mr. Wm. Beuglas, of Plattsburg, Vice-President of the Oxford Bee-Keepers' Association, having driven to Brantford, a distance of some twenty miles. Mr. Beuglas is a very successful and enthusiastic bee-keeper, having got ten thousand pounds of honey this season from one hundred and twenty five colonies, and put away this fall one hundred and seventy-five colonies.

He has so developed his home market, as to be able to dispose of most of his crop within his own district. He had with him a sample of his extracted honey, which was of a very fine color and rare flavor. The flavor was very peculiar to our taste, and very much unlike our own clover honey. This, he explained, was owing to the presence, in some considerable degree, of thistle honey. If that rare flavor is the result of thistle, then we must express our regrets that we have no thistle in our neighborhood. Mr. Beuglas gives particular attention to his honey after extracting, and by careful storing and covering, preserves the aroma that others, who are careless, allow to evaporate. He says his customers want honey that will not granulate. This he supplies. By heating the honey immediately after extracting, to 140 degrees, he is able to assure his customers that the honey will not granulate. The following is what he writes on the subject:—

According to my experience and observation, if honey is heated immediately after it is extracted, the results obtained will be much more satisfactory than if

left for a week or so before being put through the heating process. Much care should be exercised in the heating of honey, which should not exceed much over 140° Far., and a gentle motion kept up by stirring, so that it may be evenly heated. I would further conclude that the granulation process commences the very day honey is extracted. By the immediate application of heat, granulation is evidently practically prevented. The agitation of honey in any way, when cold, whether filling small receptacles or being carried in a conveyance of any kind, hastens granulation.

Mr. Beuglas winters outside, and covers two hives together with earth; pits them as you would potatoes, so to speak. High enough to be dry and well protected on top. One feature of his system surprised us very much. He says that his bees will not consume more than five or six pounds of honey during the winter, to March 1st, at which time he looks carefully after feeding. He uses a ten frame hive, only seven inches deep. We expressed great surprise at the small quantity of honey consumed, but he insists that this is correct. His statement seems to be somewhat confirmed by what appears in Gleanings of Dec. 15, page 1563, in an article written by Mr. Allen Latham, who gives the weight of 30 hives going into winter quarters and their weight at the end of March—four months. The average consumption was slightly less than eight pounds per colony. This consumption is much smaller than we had supposed possible, but we must accept this evidence. How he feeds in the early spring, we overlooked asking him. We trust he will let us have an article soon, describing his system in detail.

The above article should have appeared in December issue, but was unavoidably crowded out--Ed.

## Beginners' Department

BY E. G. HAND

During the cold weather the bees should be left severely to themselves, as any disturbance has a tendency to make them restless, which in turn causes them to consume more honey, wear out their vitality, and in several ways interfere with ideal wintering conditions. The nearer the bees remain to a state of absolute quietness and rest, the more slowly is their stock of vitality expended. In fact when they are in perfect condition in their winter quarters, the demand on their vitality is almost nil, and, if they can be kept in that perfect condition, they will live for several months with practically no loss of vitality. But it is very seldom that all conditions for wintering are perfect, so that there is nearly always more "wear and tear" on the vitality of the bees than there would be if every condition were exactly as it should be. One great essential for good wintering is that the bees shall not be disturbed from outside, as anything which jars, or even touches the hive, will cause more or less disturbance to the bees and waken them from their slumbers. It is pretty hard of course for the enthusiastic beginner to keep his hands off the hives for four or five months at a stretch, but he should do it as far as possible. It does, perhaps, little harm to go quietly into the cellar with a candle once in a while just to see that the bees are staying there all right, or to quietly raise the cover of an outside winter case on a soft day, and gently shove a hand under the top cushion to feel the warmth of the bees underneath, but it seldom does any good beyond satisfying the

curiosity which prompts the action. If bees are known to have gone into winter with insufficient stores to carry them through the winter, or if an accident happen to them or their hive during the cold weather, they will need attention; otherwise the less they are poked with between now and spring the better.

Be sure there are no mice in your bee-cellars, for these little brutes will make all kinds of mischief with the bees. A mouse chewing at the combs in a hive, or gnawing at the wood of the hive or frames, does not make good music for the bees to sleep to. Set poison or traps, whether you see the mice or not, and keep them set. If you have a mouse-proof cellar, of course, this is not necessary, but very few cellars are mouse-proof—at least, it is frequently hard to persuade the mice of the fact. If mouse tracks are seen to any extent on the snow in an outdoor apiary, get after the "varmints" as quietly and effectively as possible, but don't open a hive to get a mouse out. Put something outside that he will want to come out for, and get hurt while he is trying to get it.

And now, during the long winter nights, is the time of all times to learn a whole lot about bees by reading up a good bee-book—an up-to-date, new one. If you have not got one, get one, and get it quick. You may succeed in keeping bees without one, but you will never be a bee-keeper.

[Mr. Hand's articles have proved very valuable for beginners. One beginner has just purchased all the back numbers containing these articles. We would specially recommend them to those who intend to take up bee-keeping.—ED.]

## SPARKS

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## SPARKS FROM THE FIRES OF CONVENTION

BY MISS TREVORROW

"Coming events cast their shadows before." Saw ye not the shadow of the coming president in the officiating vice. Congratulations, Mr. President.

The Ontario bee-keepers take the palm for giving the least trouble and disturbing the uniform neatness of the rooms, less than any body of people that convenes at the York County Council Chambers.

If you want to be sure of this, ask the caretaker; he knows.

Many ways and means were discussed for raising the price of honey to an altitude that would be satisfactory to the bee-keepers. A committee was appointed to formulate a scheme to be forwarded to county associations. Until this scheme brings forth fruit of Big Prices we can leave the question in the hands of the Honey Exchange Committee, who have shown such a knowledge of honey values as to have suggested right prices every year since first appointed. Keep right on, gentlemen of the H.E.C. Publish prices as early as possible. Your ad. made better reading than a fairy tale this season.

How is that, now? "The side of a cell is the bottom, the opposite side is the top, the bottom is one side and the top the other." If this be wrong, please correct in your next issue.

How those foul brood scales did pervade the atmosphere. Now will you know foul brood when you see it again?

Equation—If it takes eight years constant exercise of four given rules to keep one apiary free from

disease, how many years and how many rules will it require to clean that "awfully dirty" apiary that one of our inspectors described, and what are the rules.

Now that the bee-keepers of our Association are showing such a strong disposition to assist the foul brood inspectors in banishing disease from the apiaries of Ontario, would it not be wise to go a step farther, and ask the Government to issue some form of license to bee-keepers, that would restrict the business to those who would be amenable to the rules that contribute to healthy conditions. It might prevent irresponsible people from planting diseased colonies broadcast through the province.

Why should not bee-keepers register their colonies? Why?

Just as we had learned that honey must not be extracted from the brood chamber on any account, some one advocates the moderate use of the extractor to clear the b.c. for brood. Doesn't he know that moderate usings often lead to excess?

Have a care how you use the word "Pure" on labels. The law is to be amended regarding it, and the eye of the bee-keeper is upon you.

Maple sap must not be used to clarify beeswax, lest the uninitiated be persuaded to purchase it for maple sugar.

Gloves may be used to handle cheeses, but not your beeses.

Query—If our American cousin saw such evidence of knowledge and thorough acquaintance with matters pertaining to apiculture, as to persuade him that the Ontario bee-keepers were quite capable of "taking him in," and possibly a

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change of subject to one that he was more familiar with would be his best play, what would the Professor think if those very same bee-keepers should allow their nation's only bee journal to die, for want of contributed support?

While he might pay tribute to their ability as speakers and debaters, he would be justified in questioning their loyalty.

Help the Editor.

#### WINTERING TWO QUEENS IN ONE HIVE

BY ISAAC BALMER

I have been watching Mr. Alexander's Plural-Queen System with much interest. He now tells us in Gleanings that every queen has disappeared, but one in each hive.

I have no doubt but what most bee-keepers expected it. Mr. Root felt confident such would happen.

Mr. Alexander is of the opinion that the queens fought to a finish.

The editor of Gleanings thinks the bees themselves take a hand in the matter, on the principle that economy and retrenchment are the order of the day. Mr. A. now would like to know whether it is possible to keep two or more queens with one colony of bees after the honey flow is over.

Mr. Root says: "We now raise the question whether it is practicable to practice this dual or plural-queen system, even with the use of perforated zinc, after prosperity has begun to wane."

I am quite satisfied that two queens will not live together in one hive, even with zinc placed between, as it would be too easy a matter for queens to sting each other

through zinc, except in a case of two storeys and a queen in each, then it would be a rare thing for two queens to meet on an excluder.

Two years ago I introduced two weak colonies by the screen system, which I have made from screen door material, with  $\frac{3}{8}$  by  $\frac{1}{8}$  strips around, the same size as hive. It was late in the fall (my hives being 12 frames—L.) when I tried the experiment. I made sure that I had one queen on one side of the hive and the other on the other side, with a solid division board in the centre, fitting so tight that either queen would have to go around by the entrance to get at the other.

They were wintered outside, with the entrance right opposite the division board, so that the bees were always mixed up whenever the weather was warm enough for them to move about, the  $\frac{3}{8}$  entrance being  $\frac{3}{8}$  by about 3 inches. The queens came through all right. Both were laying in the spring, until I took one away to give to a queenless colony.

I repeated the same last winter also, with the same success. There was brood hatching last spring from both queens, when I removed one to a queenless colony.

The above proves beyond a doubt, in my mind, that bees will not kill a queen after she has acquired the same scent as themselves. They are quite satisfied to let the queens settle that matter between themselves. Now, Mr. Editor, that question of Mr. Couper's is a hard one to answer. My home yard here is something the same; a light flow and well stretched. The best way that I could find was very much like the one he speaks of, that is, let the colony swarm, place

the swarmer in the old hive on top, take the old queen and remove her. It is better to do this again. I kill the old queen with the system, as it will have queen.

[The a two queen we are able to re-adoption o f hives against queen spring, in queens for lose their queen. Placing one in at once just startin all such hives.

#### THE DOG

Mr. J. F. following directions having two Gleanings, point to us I a double queen. They cannot single she intend to do this spring at it is a great queen laying the year when there are of it: "My plan contemplates

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the swarm on the old stand, and take the old hive to a new stand and remove all queen cells but one. It is better than placing the old hive on top of the new one, as the old queen is still there; she is likely to make preparation to swarm again. If increase is not wanted, kill the old queen, and double up with the old hive, by the screen system, and extract from that hive, as it will be all new honey and have queens always young.

[The above plan of wintering two queens is an excellent one, and we are greatly pleased that you are able to report such success. The adoption of this plan with a number of hives is a splendid insurance against queenless colonies in the spring, in that you have reserve queens for any colonies that may lose their queen during the winter. Placing one of these reserve queens in at once when brood rearing is just starting would practically save all such hives.—Ed.]

#### THE DOUBLE-QUEEN SYSTEM

Mr. J. E. Chambers gives the following description of his plan of having two queens in a hive in Gleanings, (page 1582). Its chief point to us lies in the fact that by a double queen excluder, you can keep the two queens apart so that they cannot fight as they would on a single sheet of excluder. We intend to do some experimenting this spring along this line ourselves. It is a great thing to have two queens laying just at that period of the year when brood is wanted, and when there are enough bees to take care of it:

"My plan of using two queens contemplates the employment of a

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device to separate entirely the queens and to keep the bees in an isolated condition. This secures for the apiarist all of the advantages claimed for the two-queen plan, without the fuss and uncertainty of a long process of preparation and introduction of queens. Briefly described, it consists of a board, the size of the top of a hive, with a large opening in the middle. This opening is 14 inches long and 10 wide, and is covered top and bottom with wire cloth. There is also a one-inch hole covered with excluding zinc in each corner of the board, and a flight hole in the rear. This completes the device. When using, it is laid over the main hive, and another body is placed on it. A set of empty combs is put in, and a young laying queen in a cage is given. The cover is then put on and the operation is complete.

Soon quite a few bees come up through the holes in the corners that are covered with zinc. These soon take up with the caged queen and gnaw her out. A new entrance is established through the flight-hole in the rear, and in a few days another colony is established; but the severance is never complete, and they can never be reunited. After a start is made, brood-rearing goes on quite fast, for, even though the number of bees with the upper queen is not great, the heat coming up through the wire cloth furnishes all the warmth needed. I run for extracted honey only; and when the flow is once on I remove the board; and the colony, now grown very powerful, is all together.

Though this plan has its defects I know it gives me good results. With the ordinary deep hive-bodies it would have some serious faults; but with mine that are only six inches deep, two bodies below and one above, with two extra bodies for surplus room, it is ideal. It is no trouble to establish a colony in this way, as it takes only a hive, a queen, and a set of combs, and the bees do the rest; and just think what colonies—180 lbs. of honey in the short space of fourteen days tells the tale."

#### CLARIFYING BEESWAX

BY E. D. TOWNSEND, REMUS, MICH.

Mr. E. D. Townsend, of Remus, Mich., has also been good enough to send us a very valuable paper on rendering wax. The following paper will be read by him at Saginaw, at the coming State Convention. We thank him very much. Read it closely:

It was about twenty-five years ago that a patron brought in some

beeswax that was the finest I had ever seen up to that time. Since, I have seen some on exhibition that was clarified equal, or perhaps better than this sample. You may be sure I pumped this individual for all I was worth, until I knew, in theory, all about rendering beeswax. This especial lot of wax was in cakes, the size and shape of a brick; and about the first question I asked about this wax was: "How did you get it out of the tins, as there is no slope to the sides of the cakes." His reply was something as follows: "This wax was not caked in tins at all, but instead, five basswood boards,  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. thick, cut in the following sizes, were used: the base or bottom of the box was cut about 8 by 10 inches, two end pieces, 2 by 4 inches (these should be cut very accurate,) two side pieces, 2 by 10 inches. This completes the box, only you will need a stop nailed on each side of the base; then a wedge, to wedge up the box solid. Set up the box so the inside dimensions are 4 by 8 inches, and 2 inches deep. The material must be planed, and the joints made very smooth. Now were we to fill this box with wax as it is, the wax would stick, and be hard to get out, even with this knock-down box. To prevent this soak the box in water for two or three hours before using, and the wax will come out smooth and nice.

Handled as I am about to describe, there will be no cracking of the cakes in cooling. The process of clarifying is as follows: The wax is melted in a common No. 9 wash-boiler, first putting in a pail of water; then filling the boiler with the wax to be clarified until the wax is within two inches

of the melted wax. A little wax of the press. we have the mornin and is rinsed and the w treated. Now wax. the larg may be modera chop yo in. No water i with w melted, you ha the sto fire, for ment sti must av of melte warm, f liquid fo be sure precipita time the top of th moved ; the wax. we cake i sure that before u common in the pa If you do the botto well.

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of the top of the boiler when melted.

A tub the size of the boiler, or a little larger is placed under the wax-press, and the whole contents of the boiler are put through the press. As many tubs are used as we have meltings of wax, or rather, the number of meltings we put through in one day. The next morning the wax is cool in the tubs and is removed, and all the dirt rinsed off that we can conveniently, and the wax stored away until all the wax has been rendered, and treated this way.

Now we are ready to clarify the wax. Procure a large wooden box, the larger the better, although you may be able to get along with a moderate sized one. This is to chop your wax up into small pieces in. Now put two pails of clean water into your boiler and fill up with wax to be clarified. When melted, set in the warmest place you have, but not on the back of the stove, or where there is any fire, for this would keep the sediment stirred up, the very thing you must avoid. Now wrap the boiler of melted wax in blankets, to keep warm, for it must be kept in the liquid form for about six hours, to be sure of the sediment being all precipitated. At the end of this time there will be a black scum on top of the wax, which must be removed ; then you are ready to cake the wax. For commercial purposes we cake in ten-quart tin pails, being sure that they are perfectly clean before using. Do not make the common mistake of putting water in the pail before filling with wax. If you do, the cake will be rough on the bottom, and will not appear well.

Procure a quart tin dipper, and as soon as your wax is scummed, proceed to dip it into little pails, to cake for market.

There is a little knack in dipping, so as not to boil the liquid ; let the bottom of your dipper go down into the wax first. That is not quite the idea either. It's more like this: Dip your dipper into the wax as if you were going to dip out a dipper full, but do not let the lip, or rather the top of the dipper sink into the wax more than one-half or three-fourths of an inch, then carefully let the bottom of the dipper sink down until you have a full dipper, then lift it out carefully so as not to boil the liquid, as I mentioned above.

You can usually dip three cakes from each melting, before the sediment begins to show. That part of the wax that is left in the boiler is removed when cool, and the bottom of the cake washed in clean water, and is then ready to be melted with the next melting.

Only one lot is melted a day. This gives plenty of time for the sediment to fall to the bottom of the melted wax, and for the cakes to cool.

Handled this way, the wax is so cool that the cakes do not crack in cooling.

I shipped Dadent and Sons between three and four hundred pounds of wax clarified this way last winter. This is what they say about it, under date of March 21st, 1907 : " This is one of the very finest lots of beeswax that we have ever received, and we compliment you on the neatness and skill in which it was rendered and packed."

## THE FOUL BROOD SITUATION IN CANADA

The Editor of Gleanings has been making enquiries of the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Mr. Monteith, in reference to the prevalence of foul brood in Ontario. Below we print what the Editor says, and the Minister's reply. It will be seen that his reply conforms very much with the opinion we expressed in a former issue.

A little question arose among some of our subscribers in Canada as to whether the facts were correctly given in our columns in regard to the foul-brood situation in Canada. In order that we might have the exact facts from an official source, we wrote to Mr. N. Monteith, Minister of Agriculture for the Province of Ontario. First, we enquired the number of apiaries that had been examined and the number in which foul brood had been found. It had been further stated that the inspectors, having exceeded the limit of the funds appropriated by the legislature—namely, \$1200.—had been called off, leaving the work unfinished.

The following letter from the Minister of Agriculture explains:

Dear Sirs:—I am in receipt of your letter of the 29th ult., in which you ask for a statement of the work performed by the Apiary Inspectors in Ontario during the past season. The expenditure for this work was approximately \$2300, and the details are as follows:

Total visits paid .....	733
" number of apiaries examined	663
" hives in apiary examined ..	14,993
" apiaries showing signs of foul brood .....	264

It should be borne in mind that the inspectors were, in almost every case working in suspected districts, and the relative proportion of infected apiaries should not, therefore, be regarded as applying to the province as a whole.

The inspection work was continued until about Nov. 1st, after which date, principally on account of the shortage of the honey crop, it was not considered advisable to prolong the work.

N. MONTEITH,  
Toronto, Dec. 3. Minister of Agriculture.

## HONEY DROPS FOR COUGHS AND COLDS

We have been favored with the following letter from Rev. Brother Columban, O. S. B., St. Mary's Abbey, Buckfastleigh, Devon, England. He is a reader of THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, and we thank him very much for the information contained in his letter. We have sampled his Honey Drops and must pronounce them excellent. It is a very nice confection and is easily home-made. We hope to have something more from his pen in the near future:—

I am very pleased to see that the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL is entering upon a new era, which I heartily wish and trust will be prosperous.

Also very glad to see my Honey-Cake receipt, reprinted in the October number. Bee-keepers cannot be reminded too often, how many times they might dispense with the services of the Doctor if they were to make a more liberal use of that quintessence of all the sweet treasures and healing properties which the Creator has stored in the cups of the floral world, and any recipe that helps in any way a more extensive use of honey, should always be welcome in a bee-keeper's home, more especially in those countries where, either on account of the exuberant liberality of nature or bad trade, it is considered worth only a few cents per pound. Unfortunately for us here in England, honey is scarce and dear this year.

I enclose a sample of honey drops and recipe for making

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same, which may prove handy in the season of coughs and bad colds. It would hardly be possible to find anything more soothing to a sore throat as they melt slowly in the mouth. Children and grown up people as well are very fond of them. Their usefulness have been proved over and over again, and although I do not advertise them for sale, I receive repeated orders from people who have had the chance of tasting them.

The following is the way of making them:

Take one tablespoonful of malt, and about one pint of water. Boil for ten minutes slowly, then strain the water and pour it back into the saucepan. Then put into that water one pound of sugar and about three ounces of honey. For reasons too long to be explained here, not more than three ounces of honey should be used. Boil the mixture and stir until the sugar is dissolved well. While it boils take off the scum and impurities which rise on the surface. Boil the mixture to 113 degr. Reaumur. The way of testing whether it is boiled enough or not, is to take a little with a spoon and dip it into cold water. If then it breaks or cracks like thin glass, it is boiled enough. Care, however, must be taken not to overboil it. The next operation is to pour the mixture on a smooth flat marble or slate and let cool for a few minutes. If it has run too thin on the marble, double the cake like two sheets of cardboard, then, before it gets cold, divide it rapidly into little squares with a sharp knife, and the honey-drops are finished.

I should have mentioned that a little table oil must be rubbed on the marble or slate before the mixture is poured on it.

BR. COLUMBAN, O.S.B.

#### WHAT KIND OF FEEDERS?

Enclosed please find my cheque for \$1.50 for two years' subscription to your valuable journal. You took over the direction of THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL just in time to prevent me from committing a great blunder in transferring by freight 32 colonies of bees during November. Your advice in the October issue was good; and the best of it is, you gave the reasons why not to move the bees so late. Thanks! I was going to subscribe for — but now it would be useless, as your paper has grown in information under your direction. Let us keep our money for our Canadian bee papers. Success to your energy, Mr. Editor. Don't forget the Contents for the whole twelve numbers of 1907, and may they be more complete for this year, as it is a saving of time in reference.

It is quite important to have good feeders. I bought five or six different kinds, and found none perfect. What do you think of a feeder made of galvanized iron, that would hang at four and one-half inches from the top at the back of the hive, robber and water proof. The bees in the hive could get at the feeder through a hole seven-eighths of an inch in diameter. This feeder you can remove in an instant. The top of the hive would not be interfered with, thus its heat

would be retained, and the feeding done at any time in each season. Would you object to that hole? I am going to try some of them next season if you don't give good reasons for not using them. Last season was a poor one around here. We had no crop in the fall, and had to feed liberally in August. I would be glad to write for your Journal sometimes, but my English education is not perfect enough.

Rev. J. U. CHARBONNEAU.  
Saint Hyacinthe, Que.

[Your English is quite good enough. It is quite as good as some we get, written by those who know no language but the English. We thank you for your subscription and your complimentary remarks about the improvements in the Bee Journal. Your feeder ought to be a very good one. But we would not recommend it. It seems a bit too expensive, and we do not like the hole. This would be a nuisance to be plugging up all the time, unless you put swing lugs on to cover the holes. The feeding device would no doubt be good so far as the bees are concerned, but we think it bothersome and lacking in simplicity. Again, it would only work with hives setting on their summer stands. If you were wintering outdoors, you could not very well use it without removing your packing. But it is just possible, however, that if the device is your own, you may succeed with it better than any method we could recommend; especially in view of the fact that you have tried some other feeders and did not care for

them. As a rule humanity wants its own way of doing things, and so long as the principle upon which those things are done is a correct principle, we cannot find much fault with a variation of methods. If you feed your bees in the spring on the summer stands, the best feeder that we can advise is the Alexander feeder. This obviates the necessity of opening the hive. It is only necessary to lay it down at the back of the bottom board and draw the hive back over it. You can also refill from the outside without disturbing the bees, and can remove it instantly by pushing the hive forward to its old position on the bottom board. The above is the best we can advise if you do not wish to feed from the top. There are many methods, different bee-keepers having worked out their own way; hence we say, if you like the method you have suggested, and don't mind the expense nor the annoyance of the hole in the back, persevere with it. The principle is all right, but we think the hole a little too small for the bees rushing backwards and forwards to take up the feed quickly. Perhaps some of our experienced bee-keepers will be kind enough to offer the Rev. J. U. Charbonneau some advice upon this matter.—ED.]

#### BOUND VOLUMES OF THE C.B.J.

If any of our readers wish their Bee Journals bound up, we will be very pleased to bind them. The charge will be 50c. We have some bound with each month of 1907 left over, and at the same time will supply these bound for \$1.50.

### THE ORIGIN OF THE "HONEY BOARD."

In speaking of your best means of winter cover in your December issue, you exclaim, "Why it is called a honey board we cannot understand." If you had been a bee-keeper thirty years ago, as my father was, you would understand perfectly the seemingly inapplicable term. A great change in bee-keeping, as in everything else, has taken place since then; and if a bee of 1870 could have lived until 1907 and have found itself in a modern hive, it would feel about as strange as a man of the seventies transferred suddenly from his log cabin to a city flat.

The great need of the honey board was evident upon the change from the old fashioned one storey box hive, which was destroyed to get the honey, to the moveable frame hive. Now the bees are to reside in the first flat and have their storeroom in the second, but the frames of the home (or brood-nest) are totally unfit to support the weight of the honey-box, which might be any shape. So a board is interposed, being laid on the rim of the broodnest, and supporting the box containing the honey combs. This board was thus raised by the rim so as to allow a bee-space above the frames of the broodnest and another below the box. But how were the inmates to reach this pantry? Easily answered. Three spaces were left across the whole width of the top, we will be "Honey Board" for their convenience. These openings were provided with little trap doors, so that left over, and at the keeper's convenience he could for \$1.50 might shut the bees down below

while he operated (without a smoker) on the honey box, tilting and arranging it so as to induce the bees to build decent straight comb

The rims of a modern hive now sit very properly one above the other, and, as no weight rests on the combs, and one has a smoker to show the bees their place, no old-fashioned "honey board" is necessary. But the name clings to a similar piece of bee furniture which resembles it in everything but the slots or doors, and which is placed over the top rim as a first cover. So the trap door is changed to a roof, but retains its original name "honey board," or board which supports the honey box, and without which no honey could be comfortably taken.

As for your cloth covers, they would serve as excellent air and moisture passages if not propolis-covered. Cushions my father used only over honey boards, as they are easily removed and replaced when one wishes to examine the hive. He uses now only the honey board as you do for winter cover, leaving a tiny air space, and finds it completely satisfactory.

H. L. H.  
Woodstock, Ont.

[That is an interesting bit of history. It is the first lucid explanation we have had of the so-called "honey board." "H. L. H." is too modest, and we feel obliged to take the liberty of giving her away. It would be a distinct loss if the "father" referred to was left unknown. The father is none other than our good old friend J. B. Hall, of Woodstock, who has been called the "Comb Honey King of

Canada." There you have it. If Miss Hall has any boards to fire at our stupid head for this disclosure, we will simply have to dodge or take the consequences—that's all. We are glad to learn that we have been following and recommending the practices of this thirty-year wise-acre. Thirty years a bee-keeper! What stories he could tell! We hope we can induce Miss Hall to give us some more of his reminiscences. So, we have the origin of the honey board, and, like most everything else, it has passed through a process of evolution. So far as we are concerned, we do not wish to rob it of its name. It is a very distinctive name, and inasmuch as its use is very distinctive and important, we will allow its name to remain. The difficulty with the cloth cover is, that if it be not covered with propolis, the bees will soon make it so, and the air condenses upon it; and then there is the matter of cost in renewing it. No, give us the honey board! We sincerely hope that Miss Hall will again favour us with a bit of history of that "Thirty Years' War" with the bees.]

#### "ADAM" ALPAUGH IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

Just a few lines for the C.B.J. I am continually getting mail which has first been sent to Dibbin-ton, my former address. I might just say that until further notice my address will be Eden, Ont. And just for the benefit of those who does not know where Eden is, I might say that it is a very small place five miles south of Tillsonburg, on the C.P.R. to Port

Burwell. We moved here about the 20th of November. There are quite a lot of bees kept around here when times are favorable, and very few when they are not. I have already got acquainted with some six or eight persons who keep a few colonies, but not one of them pack or put away their bees for winter. Some put on a top storey, and put some packing in it; otherwise just let them sit around as they were sitting through the summer. They tell me bees don't do very well here, and for the life of me I cannot see how they could; but from the amount of alsike clover they tell me that is grown around here, I cannot see why bees should not do well. I have decided to give them a trial in this section.

I think this place should have been called the Garden of Eden. At least I have decided to play Adam while I am here.

J. ALPAUGH.

Eden, Ontario, Can.

#### HE IS PLEASED

Our reader in Montcalm County, Quebec, writes us as follows in reference to the articles published last month about rendering wax, and clarifying same:—

I return you many thanks for publishing so able an article on rendering wax. I used a wax press which I bought from the Ham & Nott Co. last autumn, and my extractor is a steam wax extractor from the same firm. My failure was in cleansing and cooling the wax, which your correspondent has so well emphasized.—SIMEON MIREAULT, Ste Marie Salome, Montcalm Co., Quebec.

#### HONEY

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## HONEY DEPARTMENT, OTTAWA EXHIBITION, 1907

A scarcity of honey last year in the Ottawa valley, followed by a very bounteous supply of the very choicest this season, forcibly reminds one of the good old law or principle of compensation. Ye Western Ontario apiarists in quest of honey, come east, to the many flourishing bee-keepers in the basin of the Ottawa. In accord with things in general, up, too, goes the price of honey, to stay, if possible.

The bulk of honey exhibited was not up to the normal; but the quality, appearance and attractiveness of display were excellent. Mr. and Miss McLaughlin, of Cumberland, and Mr. Fraser, of Daniston, were the exhibitors, the first having the largest show. While we gladly welcome new exhibitors, and encourage them as much as possible, we are always sorry to miss the older, familiar faces, who compete for several years, and then silently drop out. This year the "vacant chair" is the one that Mr. W. J. Brown so long and so successfully filled. Some people we meet, and don't care if we never see them again; others so favorably fix themselves on our memories that we long to see and know more of them. To this latter class Mr. Brown belongs.

The judge's decision resulted in giving Mr. McLaughlin 10 firsts and diploma, 1 second and 2 thirds; Miss McLaughlin, 2 firsts, 7 seconds and 1 third; and Mr. Fraser 1 first, 6 seconds and 3 thirds.

The nature study of the bee, etc., by Mr. McLaughlin, was a very important, attractive and entertaining part of his show. He had an

observation hive, and carefully selected samples of queen cells with royal jelly, cells destroyed by rival queen, egg and larva and nymph, illustrating the development of worker and drone, nests of bumble bee, wasp and hornet, with a few of their inmates; bee enemies, and bee products, and uses of honey. Perhaps, at some future exhibition he may add to his long list pressed and mounted honey-producing plants, hives from the bee-gum, box and straw-skep to the modern frame, the "good" old-fashioned mode of dumping comb, brood, etc. in a bag and then squeezing, to bring the honey out, contrasted with the refined, clean, extractor plan.

"APIS."

[The above was sent to the C.B.J. some time ago, but by some means, never reached us. An explanation was asked for, and "Apis," on being informed that his first copy had gone astray, was good enough to send it to us the second time. We congratulate our friends of the Ottawa valley on their good fortune in having received a good crop this year. They have fared better than their Ontario brethren.

Mr. McLaughlin's exhibit must have proved very interesting. We hope to see his "Nature" exhibit at the Toronto Industrial next year.--Ed.]

MR. JOSEPH BRADLEY, of Campbells Cross, under date of Jan. 1st, writes as follows:—"Your Bee Journal is well worthy of praise. Everyone who has even two or three hives should take it."

THE HURLEY PRINTING CO. will be pleased to receive your orders for binding the C.B.J.

**COMB HONEY vs. EXTRACTED**

I am well pleased with the Canadian Bee Journal, and I hope you will have health to continue to make it profitable to us all. I have been keeping bees a great many years and there is a lot about bees that I know, but there is a whole lot I do not know.

I take several journals and study them very closely, to see if there is anything I can add to my system of managing, as I am always trying to improve.

I tried producing comb honey some few years ago, by the old system of putting supers on and trying to coax the bees up by putting bait sections in, and all other methods, but failed and gave it up; but continued to study the nature of our pets, to find out what I could do with them, in the way of forcing them to build fancy comb honey. I have succeeded so far, both in producing fancy honey, and having the right style of a hive to do it with. We want, for producing fancy comb honey, a large colony of bees and a small hive, or a hive we can make small any time, whenever the honeyflow demands it.

I intend to go to Brantford Convention, and I will give you my method of producing comb honey, in my humble way, if desired.

In reference to your remarks on page 374 Canadian Bee Journal, about comb and extracted honey; which is the best? I will leave that to the consumer. It is all a matter of taste, something like the Indian about his Mrs.; or the man that kissed the cow.

You say that there is no food value in wax, as it is difficult to digest. I will admit that; but

how much wax is there in all anyone would eat. Then you say that the wax must first melt in the stomach. For my part, I think that is where the unhealthy part comes in with your customers—heating them up so hot to melt the wax. The bees make wax to store honey in. That is true. But what is nicer on the most elaborate table (or the most humble, either, if it comes to that) than a nice dish filled with a fancy piece of comb honey, to tempt the eye as well as the stomach.

You say that it is more profitable to produce extracted honey.

It may be to you and a majority of bee-keepers, but for my part I know I can make more money producing comb honey. I can get as much per colony, and nearly double the price. D. ANGUISH.

[Glad to hear from you, friend Anguish. If more of us would realize that, notwithstanding what we know, there is a lot more to learn, the bee-keeping industry would improve, and we would not hear so much about winter losses. Your idea of a small hive for producing comb honey is correct, and we are pleased to learn that you have made it a success. We will be very pleased to see you in Brantford, at the coming district convention. In reference to comb honey vs. extracted, would say that if your trade demands comb honey, by all means supply it. The public must be supplied with what it wants.—ED.]

**INDEX FOR VOL. 15, 1907.**—Accompanying this issue will be found an Index to Volume 15, which closed with our December number.

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We would kindly ask our subscribers not to send us one dollar and fifty cents in settlement of two years' arrears. We will not accept less than two dollars. Two years for one dollar and fifty cents can only be allowed when paid in advance. There are a large number behind, who have paid no attention to our letters. After this month, all these will be cut off the list, and the amount put in Court for collection. There are quite a number who have been beating the C.B.J. It will be permitted to continue no longer.—ED.

### Want and Exchange Column

Advertisements for this column will be received at the rate of 35 cents for 25 words, each additional word one cent. Payments strictly in advance, as the amounts are too small to permit of book-keeping. Write copy of add on a separate sheet from any other matter and on one side of the paper only. Say plainly how many times ad. is to be inserted. M'tter must reach us not later than the 23rd of each month.

**EXCHANGE**—An Edison's Concert Phonograph in exchange for next year's Honey. Can make your own Records. Lots of fun; or will buy your honey.—G.A. DEADMAN, Brussels, Ont.

**WANTED**—One hundred lbs. Honey in Langstroth brood frames, or unfinished sections for winter feeding.—Address, P. H. HAMILTON, Box 482, Toronto Junction, Ont.

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**J. W. JONES, Bedford, Que.**



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## NOTES AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 12.)

says—"However, swarms are not by any means partial to high trees, and it is very seldom that they will cluster out of reach." Here again, locality, or something else, must cut quite a figure, as a row of evergreens some 40 ft. in height, near the home yard, stands as a vivid reminder of the many times ladders had to be called into use before clipping was resorted to. The disagreeable experiences with these evergreens and the bees, on boiling hot days, were the influences that caused me to first contemplate clipping the queens, as I think fully 30 of the swarms persisted in clustering out of reach. As something better than clipping, Mr. Taylor recommends a good queen trap. Have had very little experience with these articles, but according to the verdict of a number of extensive apiarists who have

used them, they are, as Mr. Taylor in a former issue of the Review expressed himself relative to queen clipping, "an unmitigated nuisance." Certainly, I for one, if forced to abandon the clipping of queens, would be at a loss as to how successfully manage an out-apiary.

Weather so far this winter, here in York Co., at least, has been very favourable for the bees. While up to date (Jan. 1) there has been no suitable day for a flight since the middle of Nov., yet we have had no extreme cold, and as a consequence no flight has been needed. Through here, bees went into winter quarters not nearly as populous as is usual, and it is hoped that the winter will continue moderate, so that heavy losses will not be general.

A new volume of the C.B.J. starts with the current issue. Subscribe now.

## ITALIAN QUEENS



F. P. ADAMS,  
Ariarist  
Bow Park  
Brantford, Can.

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## The Canadian Bee Journal

BRANTFORD, CANADA

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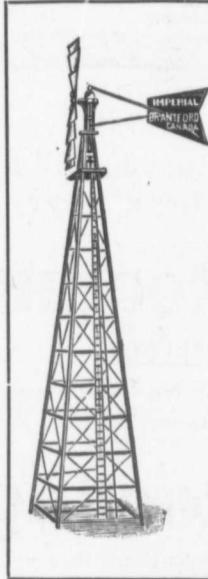
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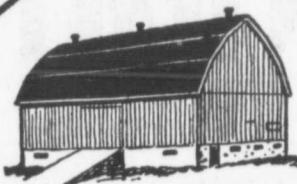
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