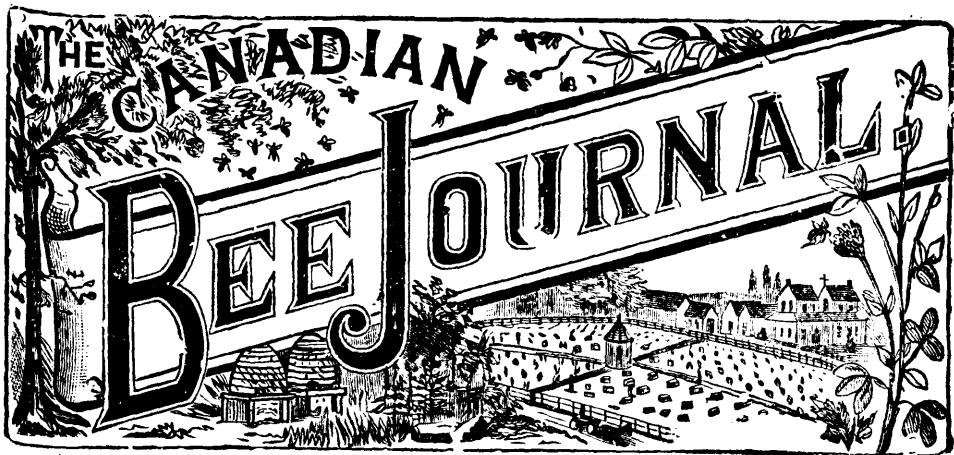


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"The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number."

VOL VIII, No. 14. BEETON, ONT., OCT. 15, 1892. WHOLE No. 322.

**GENERAL.**

Mrs. Jennie Atchley.

THE subject of this sketch was born in Meigs Co., Tenn., July 14th, 1857. She married at the age of 17 and began bee-keeping one year later. As her enthusiasm grew so did the business, until to-day Mrs. Jennie Atchley has one of the largest queen-rearing establishments in the south. She went to Texas in 1877, and settled down on what was then known as the frontier of Texas, and has under-



gone many disappointments; but the bees have been her heart's delight through all her troubles. In this interesting occupation she finds health, comfort and "bushels of real enjoyment," sufficient indeed to commend it to all

desirous of a healthy, interesting and profitable occupation.

And yet bee-keeping forms only a portion of the active work of Mrs. Atchley's well-occupied life. She is sole editress of one of the United States Bee Journals, and writes for several others. These higher duties, however, do not conflict with the equally exacting work of domestic life. "Only think of it," she says—and it is really something to think about,—"I have about four hundred nuclei running, with nearly two hundred full colonies, and am on my second thousand of queens this season. I milk my cows, feed my pigs and chickens, work a little in the garden, and do part of my house-work—all with the help of only two boys and a girl; we manage the whole affair." She is one woman out of ten thousand, and a bright exemplar to all of her sex who are troubled with ennui and the listlessness which unprofitably occupied time is sure to engender.

**A Remarkable Change.**

R. EDITOR,—Is the first impression of location by a virgin queen the stronger?

While breeding virgin Italian queens to be taken to the Burnham yard for fertilization, I did not go to one hive to get out the queen cells until one queen had hatched; and as Mr. B. was coming over in a day or two I left her for want of time to look her up. Mr. B. came the second day, and we went and caged her, and he took her home.

In a day or two after I introduced a virgin Carniolan queen, and in time released her. I did not look after her until I wanted to get out

a Carniolan queen to fill an order. I then went to this hive and found that a queen had been laying finely; but when I discovered her it was an Italian queen instead of the Carniolan which I expected to find. It is needless to say I was surprised, and gave the matter some thought. In a few days Mr. B. came over, when I told him I had another Italian queen for him and in the same hive we took one from before. He then told me that he took the queen home which we took from that hive and introduced her all right, and that he saw her the next day after her release; but when he went to get her out to send away (if laying,) neither she nor any eggs were to be found.

That queen had taken one flight while here, but did not succeed in finding a drone, as when the workers from her had hatched I could see plainly that she had been fertilized at the Italian yard, which was two miles away; but as she went out of the Italian yard no notice was taken of her new change, and when her mission was ended, came here and went into the same hive in which she was hatched. The Carniolan queen I put in was killed, as the Italian was undoubtedly in when I let the Carniolan loose.

JOHN ANDREWS,

Patten's Mills, N. Y., Oct. 10, 1892.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

World's Columbian Exposition.

DEAR SIR:—Since writing you, regarding an exhibit of honey at the World's Columbian Exposition, I have had several interviews with Prof. Saunders, the Dominion commissioner, and during one of these interviews I suggested to him, that in order to relieve the bee men of as much expense as possible, it was the duty of the Dominion Government to supply glass jars for the extracted honey, thus enabling the bee men to ship their honey in tin cans to some central point, which would lessen, very materially, all risks as to breakage. We would ship from this central point to Chicago in tin, and have our Superintendent, after it arrives in Chicago, transfer each exhibit to glass jars, to which would be attached nicely printed labels, containing the name of the exhibitor, his post office address, township and county. This, you will notice, will relieve them of any anxiety other than that of preparing the honey for shipment, and placing it in ordinary tin cans. Some time later on we will notify them of the dates and where to ship their exhibits.

Yours truly,

N. AWREY.

Ont. Com. World's Col. Exp.

### The Sweetness of Honey.

THAT there is a great difference in the sweetness of honey is generally admitted, but with most dealers in the product, whether they be wholesale or retail dealers, the question as to sweetness is very seldom mentioned. "Is it water-white or light amber?" is the question asked; body and flavor cut no figure with them, and even would-be bee keepers, who think they "know it all," seldom give much attention to the latter points in their product. Not many years ago, at one of our agricultural fairs, the judges for awarding premiums examined a large lot of honey and awarded the premiums without tasting or sampling any of it. One little fellow who boasts that he is the best comb honey producer in California was on the committee, and was asked if he had tasted any of the honey; he replied, "No, I had not thought of that." He had been guided by the eye alone and put the awards where they did not belong. Some of the so-called water-white honey has neither flavor, sweetness, nor body, and such an article ought never to be taken from the beehive.

We received an order for some honey from one of our oldest and best druggists not long ago, and gave him some of last year's crop that would be classed as dark amber by most dealers; it was made principally from black sage, but was of excellent flavor and good body. The druggist sent in another order later when the new crop was coming in, and we supposed he would be pleased to get a whiter honey and sent him some of it; but it was sent back with a statement that he wanted the darker honey, because it was sweeter and better for his use in the drug business. This druggist is an expert chemist and knew what he was talking about. His judgment was based on the sweetness of the honey, not on its appearance. It would be a good thing to put such men on the list of judges at our fairs, rather than those who are governed in their judgment by appearance alone. Honey, when touched by the tongue, begins to grow thinner or more liquid and readily gives off its flavor whether it be pleasant or unpleasant to the taste. Nature has provided the human tongue with a multitude of nerve points situated on the upper surface and tip of the tongue. Some of these points excite a sweet sensation and others a bitter one. A perfectly good honey having flavor and body also excites the olfactory nerves, and when one is tasting the honey the sense of taste and smell are both employed. In the case of the little committee man, he exercised the sense of sight only, and missed entirely the business he was appointed

to perform, by neither tasting nor smelling the exhibit. Bee-keepers should pay more attention to the body and flavor and less to its color, and in a short time even the most indifferent dealer will discover that it is to his interest to secure a honey possessing all the above good qualities.  
—*Rural Californian.*

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

**Superintendence of the Honey Exhibit at the Chicago Exhibition.**

THE gentleman who has been selected as superintendent of the World's Fair honey exhibit at Chicago is Mr. Allen Pringle, of Selby, Ont.; and whilst we may not all agree with Mr. Pringle upon some important issues, there is no reason whatever why we should withhold from him our hearty support in this matter, or refuse to give him every assistance in our power. Mr. Pringle will, I have no doubt, be liberal-minded enough to receive suggestions from all who may send them, provided they are couched in a spirit calculated to enhance the best interests of the cause. I am very much interested in the success of our efforts to get a market for our surplus honey, and I have the impression that at Chicago we shall meet buyers from all parts of the world at better prices than many of us are getting just now. I have recently learned that in past years quite a quantity of honey was shipped to France, and I am also advised by friends that Germany is likely to offer better prices even than the United Kingdom for our surplus honey.

Mr. Pringle has hard work before him. All comb honey, in transit, should be handled under his supervision; and we, as bee-keepers, should not be satisfied until we are assured by Mr. Commissioner Awrey, M.P.P., that Mr. Pringle shall have at least three months in Chicago, during a portion of which time he shall be in attendance at the Exhibition to give information to purchasers.

In closing, let me once more entreat all—and our friends especially—to give Mr. Pringle all the help we can in the work he has undertaken.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

Brantford, Ont., Oct., 1892.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

**Honey-Yielding Plants and Climatic Conditions.**

EDITOR BEE JOURNAL,—In this connection I will treat first of the black locust. This tree is usually very rich in honey, but the only nectar which it produces is that with which the bloom opens out. If some

good showers of rain have occurred before it blossoms it will furnish an abundant crop of honey; if otherwise, it produces honey sparingly.

I take the tulip or poplar next. This yields best in dry weather, and whilst in bloom the drier the weather the better. I have noticed that if showers are abundant whilst it blooms it affords little honey, as the blossoms stand almost straight up so that the rain drowns them out.

Basswood yields more or less honey under almost any conditions; though I think it produces more under a damp atmosphere, provided it is not too wet.

Clover yields best also when the atmosphere is a little humid; but horse mint and cotton yield when the sun shines warmest, and gives more nectar about midday than at any other time.

Mint will furnish honey all day long after the sun is well up; and as soon as the bee unloads one petal, it will fill right up again. If the weather is fine, and the bees strong, a great yield is the general result.

Now, my ideal location is within a range where I can take in as many of these honey-yielding plants as possible; and where I can secure honey throughout the year and under all kinds of atmospheric conditions. Texas will not be able to report even a half crop of honey this year, owing to the lateness of the spring and its accompanying cool and rainy weather. I think, however, that the fall flowers will furnish sufficient honey to enable us to get our bees into winter quarters in first-class condition, as we have had fine late summer showers all over the State, and vegetation is looking very well.

Yours, etc.,

JENNIE ATCHLEY.

Floyd, Hunt Co., Texas.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

**After-Dinner Thoughts.**

IT is raining to day, and cold enough to be comfortable with the door closed and a fire in the stove. This is as it should be, for the Great Director of all things is at the helm. Our annual conference is now being held at this place, and my wife has got things baked up in great shape. You see we are going to entertain some of the many ministers who are here, and custom that prevails at this time demands that we pay heed to the cry:

"Give us this day our daily bread," and pies and cake beside,  
To load the stomach, pain the head, and choke the vital tide.

Wal, them as want a mud puddle behind their eyes kin have it by eatin' pize an'-cake.

I see that some advise us to let the bees clean up the combs that have been extracted, placing such combs a short distance from the apiary. Well, I don't believe it is right to do things that way, and we ought to be careful about giving wrong advice. Did you ever think of the hurt you might do to others by giving unripened advice? Now I have in years past tried that same cunning thing of letting my bees clean up a lot of unfinished sections that contained honey, and I am fully aware that I was ashamed of myself before I got things set to rights again for not knowing better. A person that tells you to take that course, must, it seems to me, be possessed of but little experience, or else has only the same amount of good judgment. The reason people fail in any vocation is because they don't understand all the points connected with it. One or two points left out spoil the whole ball of wax. Take one link out of a chain, and it's a chain no longer. Then it muchly behooves one to make wise choice in the matter, and, after finding his vocation, glue his-self to it and stay there till he is ripe and not shed too many blows atween times. Having reached that condition in life where one finds his-self in possession of a dome well filled with that most valuable article, well evaporated and capped over, leaving no pressure on the dome, and no chance for bursting cells, your advice will then be sought for freely; and you're a bigger fool than I if you don't charge for it all the same. Such stuff is not easy to get, and the man that has obtained the pure quill is slow to part with it. A little filthy lucre in return for a cell or two of well evaporated advice is no cheat, and your advice will be followed muchly quicker. A short time ago one of our foremost bee-keepers burst a cell upon us as a free will offering, a spray of which ran thusly, as near as I can recall it, for I have mislaid the journal in which his deposit was made. This man after greasing the slide on which some slip off their adulterated honey, said in substance, among other things, that people cared but little what honey contained, or how it was made so it only tasted good. He still further declared that some honey was even improved by adding sugar. This same man, not long ago, delivered his self in melodious accents deploring the low price of extracted honey. Journals denounce Prof. Wiley, and keep right on printing articles that are riley and slippery with adulteration talk. How glad I am that the C.B.J. doesn't uphold adulteration by printing such articles. Sometimes I have grasped my lead pencil with a terrible grip, and a determination to answer such articles in accents that are unmistakable. Then, as I discover the cause to be the looseness of their ohime hoop,

I relent, and as the barrels of tears course their way down my cheeks I cry in dilapidated form: "ah! consistency, thou art a jewel," but oh! where dost thou roost?—hast thou hid thy face from man?—is thy dwelling place removed far from us? Yes, I will try and answer not these good men according to their folly, but hope the day will soon arrive when the projectiveness of their craniums will spaciote with the organs and fluids which develop themselves in the risibilities of their heads.

JOHN F. GATES.

Ovid, Erie Co., Pa., Aug. 31st, 1892.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### Stingless Bees.

DEAR EDITOR,—In an extract from the *American Apiarist*, which appeared in the C. B. J. for September 15th, J. Edward Giles sets forth some decidedly progressive ideas with regard to the possibility of securing a superior strain of stingless bees by crossing with the stingless bee of South America, to which he refers as follows: "But these races have not much value as honey gatherers, moreover they build combs with very thick walled cells."

The idea of a *comb building* race of stingless bees being new to me, I venture to say that a detailed account of such a race will prove of great interest to apicultural students generally.

A few years ago I obtained a colony of the stingless *abeja de tierra*, while buying bees in the island of Cuba from an enterprising native who had transferred them from their natural abode (a hole in the ground) into a box with one open end from which observation was made while their brief existence permitted, for they seemed to "pine away and die" in their longing for their old *casita abajo la tierra*. They were *stingless*, but built no comb; the honey was stored in small globes ranging from one half to three-fourths of an inch in diameter, composed of some material of a dark brown color, resembling old propolis rather than wax, and were attached to an irregular mass of the same material which rested upon the bottom of the box, and shed an aroma not unlike that arising from a nest of young bats, equalling in fragrance the haunt of a terrified pole cat.

Were it not that the probable dozen cells (?) which protruded, separately and alone, through and around this mass of I know-not-what-like small drone cells, contained larvæ apparently healthy, I might have attributed their sudden demise to foul brood, which I think the stench would warrant.

The honey is said to contain medicinal properties, but is not used for food, and the fact

that fermentation results from exposure to the air would indicate that the secretion of formic acid is an important factor not possessed by this strain or race of stingless bees.

H. E. HILL.

Titusville, Pa., Sept. 28th, 1892.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### An Encouraging Report.

**D**EAR SIR,—Although bee-keeping has become so unprofitable through the depreciation of prices that many bee-keepers are growing discouraged, my experience during the past season has not been altogether discouraging.

I bought thirty-five of the new Heddon hives, and contracted with a neighboring bee-keeper to furnish me first swarms for them at \$2 each. Owing to the lateness of the season he had but sixteen fresh swarms up to 20th July, none having issued before the first. As I did not care to take swarms issuing after this date, we agreed to close the deal at that number. They were hived in single cases, and supers were placed on them about the 20th July. Second supers were afterwards placed on some of them.

On the 20th September I took off twenty-five supers which contained about five hundred sections of marketable honey which I sold for ten cents per section, and about one hundred pounds of sections not fully capped which will answer for home use. I have the sixteen colonies well stocked with bees and supplied with honey, and in good condition for wintering.

Yours truly,

J. W. G.

Brighton, Oct. 7th, 1892.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### Wired Frames, Annual Meetings. The Season's Results.

**D**EAR SIR,—Wired frames are to the front just now, and I see by the C. B. J. that some are in favor of using wire and some are not. Much may be said in favor of either system, but for my own part I prefer the wired frames for the following reasons: First, because I can handle them much more quietly, no matter how heavy the combs may be with honey or brood without any danger of breaking either in handling or in the extractor, and because it is a great support to the combs in hot weather. Secondly, because when swarming it is a pleasure to put the swarm on full sheets of foundation and feel sure that there is no danger of warping or breaking down, so that I feel amply repaid for the time it may take to wire the frames.

As the president has opened up the subject of

annual meetings, it appears to me that these gatherings might be made more attractive and profitable, first by judicious advertising in the local papers, so that we may have a large attendance; Second, by each member having a question to ask relative to the pursuit, and by taking part in the general discussion of the different papers as they come up. It is wrong to go away complaining that a few do all the talking, when perchance those who do so much talking would gladly hear others, should they avail themselves of the privilege. Come with all the knowledge of the pursuit you have got; give it freely, and take all the useful hints you can get, for there is much to be learned during the session and in the friendly chats between. I feel well repaid for attending each meeting, independently of meeting those whose writings appear in the JOURNAL from time to time.

The season now drawing to a close has been a peculiar one. The spring was backward and cold, and the bees scarcely ready for the clover, which gave a very light flow—about one-fourth of a crop. By the time the linden came in bloom the bees were quite ready, and honey came in rapidly for a few days; so that notwithstanding all our troubles the past season has left us a very good crop, and an increase of forty per cent. The bees are breeding much later this year with me than for some years past, but they will go into winter quarters in good order.

Yours, etc,

A. PROCKET.

Nassagawaya, October, '92.

### Large Queens, and How to get Them.

**S**IR,—As a queen breeder I have had many inquiries for "large queens," so that larger workers may be had to get honey from red clover, and I have been consequently obliged to write many letters in reply to these requests.

I am aware that there are many who believe that small queens cannot produce large workers; but if you give the bees new combs which have not been bred in so as to reduce the size of the cells you will get larger bees than from old combs, and consequently the tongue of the bee will be longer. Mr. L. A. Aspinwall of Three Rivers, Mich., takes the right view of this matter, though I fear he will not make a success of his wooden combs, an opinion which I have not failed to advise him of. If, however, beekeepers will only go to the expense of new combs every two or three years, I am quite sure that within that time the bees will reach the honey in red clover. Why not? All other creatures are bred for size, and why not bees?

By the method I now use I can get larger queens than from any other I have yet tried, because I get an extra amount of chyme, or queen food, to produce them. Of course it takes more time to get such queens, but it pays in the end. Two years of experimental work have satisfied me that I can get better queens than those reared by natural swarming which some breeders asked fifty cents extra for some years ago. In starting the Burnham yard at Vaughan's, Worcester Co., N. Y., I bought Italian queens from two different breeders, and none of them were large queens; but I bred and hatched from them larger virgin queens than their mothers were in their best work.

As it is now time for me to unite my colonies (September 1st), I give you my method of work. I do it in the evening simply by interchanging the combs with the adhering bees. I use but little smoke, and they mix very rapidly and do not quarrel. Of course, the less desirable queens are to be taken away a day or two in advance of this work.

For a winter passage, I have two holes through each comb, and keep them open in the spring, so that the queen and bees can pass through as they become strong; and they will pass as soon as their strength will permit of it. I used to spread brood, but don't do it now. I run my risk of the bees knowing when to spread themselves, and have learned that they do it with less risk to the colony than I can.

Yours, etc,

JOHN ANDREWS.

Patten's Mills, N. Y., Sept. 1892.

#### How Shall I Winter My Bees?

DEAR SIR,—I know a person who smothers some of his bees every fall. As I intend to get some from him this fall if possible, I would like to know how to winter them. What would you think of the following plan? Take honey and knead as much sugar into it as possible, then roll it into thin sheets and fasten it into empty frames with wire gauze. Would it be better to give them a couple of empty frames of comb to cluster on? As it will be so late in the season when I get them I think it would be too late to feed them liquid. I intend to winter in root house. Please give me your opinion through the Bee Journal, and oblige

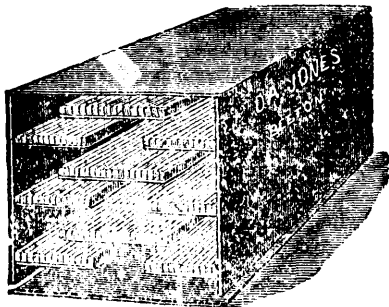
Yours truly,

J. E. GOWLAND.

Dracon, Ont. 1892.

We would advise you to make your candy as you say and place it in a bee-feeder similar to the one we used to make, with grooved shelves. It holds about

twenty pounds, and the grooves hold the liquid, the outside of the feeder projecting down half an inch below the shelves as you will see by the cut.



These are placed above the cluster, filled with candy which is made by taking pulverized or granulated sugar, and stirring it into honey nicely warmed up until the latter will not hold any more in solution. Allow the mass to stand till both are thoroughly mixed. Then place in feeders and set over frames, packing around nicely to keep in the heat.

You should have at least three empty frames of comb to cluster on under the feeder. Four or five would be better, keeping them pretty well apart so that they may all cluster between, say, three ranges of combs. We do not think your plan as easy or as safe as the feeder we recommend. The warmth from the bees always keeps the feed. We have wintered bees in this way, and found the cluster all up in the box in spring, and most of the stores consumed, the bees healthy and in very fine condition.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL,

#### Misguided Zeal.

I AM very glad indeed that our friend Holtermann has taken W. F. Clark to task for his article in the *Montreal Witness*, and reproduced in C. B. J., re extracted honey, its adulteration, etc. I am surprised that Mr. Clark should make such statements, which are, as Mr. Holtermann says, "injudicious even if true," and, as Mr. H. also says, "are not correct, but misleading." I cannot understand what object Mr. Clarke has in writing so. How true it is that "a man's foes are they of his own household," and how necessary is the prayer, "Save us from our friends." I sincerely believe that, taking bee-keeping as a pursuit, there is more written and said by bee-keepers themselves which is opposed to their own interests than in

that of any occupation or calling. Hasty advises the feeding of sugar to make honey, and Hutchinson to leave the bees destitute of honey, and feed sugar syrup, thereby increasing the difficulty of finding a market for our honey. Others boast of their large yields, and lead their neighbors or others to believe that there is a fortune in the business, and so encourage opposition which is not "the life of trade," or at least which so frequently proves troublesome or an injury to themselves. This latter class, however, are generally amongst the beginners and inexperienced, but we cannot excuse Mr. Clark on this head, which makes it all the more surprising. To correct the statement, as Mr. H. suggests, draws fresh attention to it. No correction that Mr. Clark can make will undo the evil that is done.

G. A. DEADMANN.

Brussels, Ont.

For THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

#### After-Dinner Thoughts.

**A** LITTLE breakfast is enough; enough dinner is but little, and a little supper is too much. Dinner is the meal over which I delight to linger, provided "the grub"—or to speak more correctly—the viands prepared for the sustentation of the body are presented in sufficient quantity to satisfy one's alimentiveness. Then, after the expiration of a half hour of undisturbed repose in the old arm chair, some thoughts flit across my mind which I catch as they are passing by. Being a bee-keeper, one would naturally suppose that these thoughts would have reference to that subject; but that is not the case, for they frequently revert to other subjects, sometimes of a religious character. These, however, I send to publications devoted to that special interest. However, would it be out of place here, especially as my mind seems pre-occupied with such thoughts to-day, to give you a receipt for keeping the peace and preventing the people from taking honey from your apiary without asking for it. The bee-keepers' union is a good thing; but I have found that a union of the hearts of bee-keepers with those that are not produces one of the grandest unions in existence. Bee-keepers should of course furnish the honey which the receipt requires in order to cement the hearts together.

When I sold my farm in old Concord my neighbors gathered to bid me adieu, and tears wended their way down their cheeks at the thought of my departure, and, among other things that occurred to them, came the inquiry: "Who will give us honey when Mr. Gates is gone away?" The thought never occurred to

them that my bees sometimes were too inquisitive in their affairs, and not infrequently in a pointed and painful way. But giving your neighbors honey is but a small part of this receipt for peace; in fact, it merely opens the way, and is only incidentally connected with the greater and higher aim which all should have in view in bringing others to feel and realize what kind of life we should live. Well, in my new location I was amused to see what a toothsome article my honey appeared to be; some of them even displaying such a remarkable attachment for it as to dispossess themselves of sleep in order to obtain the coveted prize in the darkness of night, thereby concealing their identity and leaving me no further chance to appease their insatiable appetites. Very fortunately a minister was sent here who, with divine help, not only gathered the people in for about two miles square, and taught them that it was wrong to take things without asking for them; but he also had three cottage prayer meetings and one at the church—making four in all—each week, which were well attended by those dear boys who loved honey so well. Yes; and now I run no risk in leaving even a ton of honey stacked up by the roadside and unprotected. If the boys love you they won't take your honey without asking for it. Were you ever a boy? Then sweeten the other boys' existence.

Yours, etc.,

JOHN F. GATES.

Ovid, Erie Co., Pa.

From Farm and Home.

#### Moths in Bee Hives.

**I**NTELLIGENT bee-keepers have ceased to feel any disquiet in regard to this old-time pest of the apiary. In the dark days of bee-keeping, "moth-traps," were among the gim-cracks palmed off on the ignorant and inexperienced. The best moth-trap is a strong colony of bees. This and other evils in bee-keeping may be warded off by heeding Father Langstroth's maxim: "Keep all colonies strong." It is a remarkable fact, and a strong point in their favor, that Italian bees are rarely troubled by moths, and even a moderately strong colony of this race will clean them out most effectually. If through carelessness and neglect on the part of the bee-keeper, a colony has become moth-infested, the bees and any combs not affected should be transferred to another hive, after which the old hive should be well sulphured; then by giving one or two at a time of the moth-eaten combs to strong stocks of bees, after killing any pupa that may be in sight, they will be cleansed and used. The enfeebled colony may be strengthened by giving it frames of brood, and, if necessary, a good young vigorous queen.—W. F. Clarke, Bee-keeper's College Guelph Ontario.



FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Two or Three Questions Answered.

**D**EAR SIR.—I take the liberty of addressing a few questions to you regarding the honey resources of Canada, especially at Niagara-on-the-Lake. I am thinking seriously of going there to start an apiary. It is my old boyhood's home, and I have a house and lot there. Any information you can give me on honey resources, selling prices, etc., etc., also in regard to the prices of bees in spring and in the fall, would be acceptable. I shall want about fifty hives. Is there any duty on bees entering in Canada? Of course I would prefer to buy them in the Dominion at as near Niagara as possible. Any information you can give with sample of journal will be thankfully received by an old beekeeper.

Trusting to hear soon, I remain,

Very respectfully,

R. D. AVERY.

London Bridge, Virginia, U.S., Aug. 13, '92.

There are many locations in the neighborhood of Niagara-on-the-Lake which are very good for bee keeping; and from reports which we have had, a number in that district are doing very well with bees, though we know of other places where we think you could perhaps do better, and where even larger yields of honey have been taken. Extracted honey sells from eight to ten cents in Canada. We think you will be able to buy bees at from four to seven dollars per colony. There is no duty on bees coming into Canada. You will be able to buy lots in the immediate vicinity of Niagara, and thereby save express charges, and other possible inconvenience.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—As I wish to undertake bee-keeping, and don't know the first thing about it, I thought you were the best parties to whom I could apply for information. If you would kindly answer the following questions I would feel much obliged:—

(1) How extensive an apiary can be started on one hundred dollars?

(2) To what books would you refer me for my first instruction—where can they be had—and at what price?

Yours, etc.,

J. E. WILSON.

Fillmore, N.Y., U.S.

With a capital of one hundred we would not advise you to commence with more than ten or fifteen colonies; as otherwise, after purchasing the bees, there would be other sundry expenses. We would refer you to "Cook's Manual of the Apiary," and "A.B.C. of Bee Culture." Price of each \$1. We can supply you direct with either or both.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Successful Beekeeping.

**D**EAR SIR.—On the 9th May, 1891, I bought three colonies of Italian bees, which increased during the season to ten, giving thirty gallons of extracted honey. I wintered them on their summer stands. The spring of 1892 found me with eight colonies, having lost two during the winter. This year I have increased my stock to twenty-one colonies, and have extracted seventeen hundred and eighty-six pounds, having taken from these colonies four hundred and sixty-four pounds of nice comb honey, with the bees still storing some. On cleaning up and putting the bees in winter quarters I expect to extract about six or seven hundred pounds more. Wishing the C.B.J. every success, I remain

Yours truly,

A. J. HILTON.

Newbridge, Oregon, U.S., Sept., 1892.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

The Renfrew Fair Honey Exhibit.

**A**S in the case of the Sherbrooke (Que.) exhibition, so in that just held at Renfrew, Ont., we observe that the stupidity has been repeated of mixing up the apicultural department with that of the dairy. This is not encouraging to apiarian exhibitors, and may eventuate in the future withdrawal of apicultural products from the local exhibitions, and their transfer to one general apicultural provincial and county show in which they may be treated more judiciously and less unfairly. It is an utter absurdity to sandwich a lot of honey exhibits in the same list with and between exhibits of factory cheese and cured ham and bacon. It seems somewhat surprising that the directors of our local fairs do not see the utter incongruity of such a proceeding. The probability is that if a little more common

sense were exhibited in the matter, the apiarian exhibits would be very much larger than they are. It has got to be a very extensive and important industry, and will not consent to be treated with impertinences of this kind :—

Honey in jar—4 entries : 1 Thomas Halliday, 2 John Park.

Honey in comb—3 entries : 1 H. A. Schultz. Beeswax—3 entries : 1 H. A. Schultz, 2 Jas. Martin.

Display of honey and apiarian supplies—1 entry : H. A. Schultz.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Beekeeper's Reports.

MR. GRANT VALLEAU writes us :—" I have six skips of bees, five of which made me five hundred and sixteen pounds of comb honey.

MR. JAMES DONALD writes us :—" I am much pleased with the improvements in the C.B.J. Bees in this locality have done fairly well this season when properly managed. I keep one hundred colonies and have a reasonable amount of surplus honey.

J. ITTER & SON writes us :—" Last spring we had eighty-nine weak colonies of bees. We now have one hundred and fifty good and strong, all in excellent condition. Have extracted two thousand five hundred pounds of honey, and bees will go into winter quarters in good shape.

Hard on Punicas.

MR. H. FITZ HART, of Avery, La., writes us :—" The Punicas are the biggest fraud ever put on the beekeeping world. I got one twelve months ago to see if it would improve the yield of an out apiary I am operating. She turned out fertile, and the fifty colonies in that yard are mostly pure Punicas, (those that are left I mean) having killed and replaced a number. The Punicas sting worse and the sting is more painful. The queen is more difficult to find, and they prefer to fill the brood chamber with honey rather than store above. I advertised them in the spring, and, judging from the letters I had, I could have sold hundreds if I had not given my customers my opinion of them.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

New Beekeeping Patents.

THE following is the list of patents issued to Oct. 12th, 1892, from the U.S. Patent Office, Washington, D.C. :—

Bee Smoker.—To G. W. Brodbeck, Los

Angeles, Cal., filed Nov. 19th, 1891, No. 484,172 This device consists of a bee smoker provided with an air chamber surrounding the fire barrel, and communicating with the glass chamber at one end, and with the smoke nozzle at the other end, and a suitable damper arranged upon the end of the fire barrel to prevent the passage of the blast through the fire barrel, and to direct the blast through such air chamber.

Crate.—To F. B. Sites, Defiance, Ohio, assignor of one half to Henry D. Bokop, same place, filed Dec. 14th, 1891, No. 484,059.

Wooden vessel for honey and the like.—To J. N. Schofield, Merced, Cal., assignor of one half to E. E. O'Brien, same place, filed June 20, 1892, No. 484,249. This device consists of a wooden vessel for containing liquids, formed of separate sections, pieces or staves, having grooves in their meeting edges, and strips of absorbent material placed in these grooves.

Markets.

CHICAGO MARKET.

Fine white comb honey.....	17 to 18
Second grade comb honey.....	15 16
Extracted honey.....	7 8½
Beeswax.....	26

TORONTO MARKET.

Fine white comb honey.....	17 to 18
Second grade honey.....	15 16
Extracted honey.....	7 8½
Beeswax.....	30

FROM C. L. S. AND F. J.

Marketing Honey.

IN honey, as in every other product of the farm, and, in fact, almost everything offered for sale produced by cultivation, the best finds a ready market and the inferior has to go at almost any price. By improving the quality we raise it as it were above the level of others, and it is picked up quickly.

Honey is no exception ; the primary requisite to successful marketing is to produce a first-class article. In comb honey, the sections should be free from propolis, clean, well-filled, and with straight comb. The weight of each section should not exceed one pound, and is better if it does not exceed 12 oz. It is not a question of getting a pound every time you purchase, but how can I get a section of honey of first-class quality for the least money. I want a section of nice comb honey and 12 oz. will be enough. The result is that the beekeepers who have sections to offer weighing 12 oz. at 15c. will take the market away from those having 16 oz. to 20 oz. sections. The 12 oz. section has

other advantages. The beekeeper can sell them at the store at 15c. per lb. The storekeeper can get his profit by selling the sections at 15c. each. Again, a narrow section will be built out and filled by the bees more quickly than a wide one. No one should think of using a section more than seven to the foot, or 1 5/8 with separators. This question was very fully discussed by beekeepers and commission men at the last meeting of the North American Beekeepers' Association. Comb honey should not be taken to market in the supers in which it has been produced, but neatly crated in boxes for that purpose, one end being fitted with glass. Each should hold 12, or at most 18 sections.

#### EXTRACTED HONEY.

I am afraid that too much extracted honey is put upon the market not thoroughly ripened; beekeepers are all anxious to secure a large crop and they want to give the bees plenty of room, and do it by extracting often. If honey tastes no better than syrup, beekeepers will not hold their customers long, for honey cannot compete with syrup in price. If we want to give bees room we must do so by putting additional supers on the hive, but all honey should be left in the hive until the bees are ready to cap it over. By so doing we offer an article nourishing, healthy and rich in flavor; and we are constantly, as each household gets a taste, receiving new outlets for our product. The person who does not pursue this course is not only doing himself an injury, but he is spoiling the market for those who have a better article to offer.

#### GENERAL HINTS.

It is human to desire that which we cannot get; and as natural, not to desire strongly that which is easily attainable. For instance, there are thousands upon thousands who have never seen Niagara Falls, yet live near enough and have easy facilities for reaching them; whilst there are thousands no better off financially than these same who travel long distances to see them, and thousands more far distant who long to see that which is not within their reach. So it is with food products; let the impression be that honey is not very plentiful and lots will buy, whereas if the cry obtains that honey is abundant every one concludes that it will do to purchase later.

I find those having a few colonies think that they are doing great things if they get forty pounds to the colony, and off they rush to town with it, where there is already more than enough; then home they go telling all their neighbors that honey is worth nothing this

year, and that they had better kill their bees. I have occasion to write to men who offer honey for sale, and I always say, if you have honey for sale, dispose of all you can in your own district first; this will relieve the larger markets and the cities, and when you have done that try to sell in the cities. A moment's reflection will show us what benefits can be derived if we follow the rule, "Create your home market first." By careful management we can make our Canadian market go much further than it does. Next, when we have a small crop, sell it quietly, and be satisfied with a fair price for it, and don't hold out for more than it is worth.—R. F. HOLTERMANN.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

#### New Beginner.

**M**R EDITOR.—I am a new beginner at beekeeping. I received two swarms on the 10th of July, 1891. Before I put them into winter quarters I weighed them, and when I set them out last spring I weighed again, and one hive had consumed sixteen pounds, and the other eleven and a half pounds.

I put my bees in an out house that I had made, and they seemed to die off very rapidly. I then put an inch block under each corner of each hive, raising it one inch from the (ground) bottom board; after doing so the bees did far better; scarcely any dead bees being seen afterwards. I left the bees in winter quarters for five months. When I set them out in the spring the queens occupied from four to six frames.

The first swarm I had came about the middle of June; but as I was not there when they swarmed, they went to the woods. I have now got five prime colonies. The hives are full of honey and brood, with plenty of bees for the winter.

I took from the two colonies that I wintered ten full frames of sealed honey, of the Jones size.

I could have taken a great deal more then, but I hadn't any extractor. I purchased two queens from W. H. Laws, which proved to be very valuable, their bees being much better honey-gatherers than the blacks which I had. I do not use any veil or mittens in handling bees.

The first swarm that I had from W. H. Law's queen was a very large swarm. When the bees were on the limb I moved the old hive to a new stand about twenty feet away, I then placed a new hive on the old stand and hived the bees in it. I did that in hope of preventing after-swarms, and to have good, strong colonies.

In a couple of days I noticed the bees flying from the new hive to the old one, and upon examining the new hive, I found very few bees in it, and no queen. I had given them a frame of unsealed brood, and they built a queen cell on it. I then examined the old hive on the new stand and found no queen in it. All I could find was two queen cells, but it was overflowing with bees.

Would any bee friend be kind enough to tell me what became of the old queen? Last week my bees pulled out a lot of young brood. Can any one tell me the cause of it? The hive seems to be crowded with bees—and they have plenty of honey.

I am much pleased with Mr. Deadman's article on extracted honey, and would be glad if he would inform me how he winters his bees in those large hives? I would like to know if he winters them in the brood-chamber or in one end of the hive, or do they occupy all the hive?

I see many articles in the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL which prove very valuable to me. I am very much interested in the journal as a key to beekeeping.

Yours truly,

THOMAS NESBITT.

Apsley P.O., Ont.

Your queens must have been killed or lost in hiving them. Perhaps it was drone brood that the bees were hauling out. If it were worker brood it perhaps got chilled, or starved for want of attention. We scarcely think the bees would haul out live brood in swarming time and destroy it.

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**It Pays.**

It pays to wear a smiling face  
And laugh our troubles down,  
For all our little trials wait  
Our laughter or our frown.  
Beneath the magic of a smile  
Our doubts will fade away,  
As melts the frost in early spring  
Beneath the sunny ray.

—Farm, Field and Stockman.

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FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

**Amateur Experience.**

**M**R. EDITOR.—I am desirous of advising you how I am getting along in the bee business. A year ago, last spring, I bought twelve hives of bees, but not knowing anything about them except that they gathered

honey, swarmed occasionally and had a peculiar electric influence in their tails. I consequently got an experienced man to go through them for me. I watched him closely and have since handled them myself. They were in very bad shape, though I succeeded in getting ten swarms last season, losing one by moths, and extracting about eleven hundred weight of honey. Last fall I put away twenty-one hives, and last spring I put out twenty-one. I do not think I fed some of them as I should have done last spring, as I had only four swarms this season, and extracted about twenty-three hundred pounds of honey.

Now, considering the condition of the bees when I got them, I don't think I have done so badly. And yet the question with me is where am I going to sell the proceeds. I have about seven hundred pounds of light honey, and about twelve hundred pounds of dark on hand now, and, as I am by trade a carpenter, I do not have much time to look up buyers. It seems to me that a great mistake has been made by beekeepers in storing their honey. As the most experienced beemen around here told me they used syrup barrels, I got one, and it smelled so strongly that I thought it would destroy the flavor of the honey. I therefore got some ash barrels made, and have stored in nothing but new barrels or cans. People who buy my honey say they never had as good extracted honey before, and this proves to me that there must have been something wrong with the storing and curing.

Yours, etc.,

C. H. SMITH.

Picton, Ont., October, 1892.

Your success in beekeeping clearly indicates that you not only read the bee-books and journals, but that you are a close observer and follow carefully the best advice given. You are quite correct in your statement about placing honey in syrup barrels. They might do for buckwheat or some other very poor, strongly flavored honey. We have found that tin cans holding about sixty pounds are the best for storing in. Your ash barrels of course will be all right, but will absorb more or less honey and will be as expensive as the tin. It is also more difficult to liquify in them. We shall be pleased to hear from you from time to time, for you can tell your brother beginners how successful they may be if they go properly to work.

Send in your subscription to the C.B.J. at once.

### Beekkeeping Amongst the Natives of South Africa.

**I**N my last letter I promised to give you an account of the conversation I had with an Arab native who thought himself strong in beekeeping. I will allow my man to speak for himself. He said:—"You Christians do not know the value of bees. I will begin by telling you that the honey-bee is a sacred animal, and has been blessed by God. The purchase and sale of hives is a great sin, and a good Mussulman will never do it. It is permitted to make any one who wishes it a present of a hive by receiving another present in exchange. To obtain swarms, empty hives are placed in the brushwood of forests. These hives are well rubbed with a species of herb that I will not disclose to you. God Almighty makes the swarm that flies about enter the hive, and when it is lodged, the hive may be removed to the apiary, or a new apiary may be started on the spot. This place must be kept very clean, and the owner of the bees should manipulate them, or in his absence, a brave man, but never a woman—her presence would be the ruin of the apiary. If the hives belong to several persons, either to brothers or associates, it is absolutely necessary that these people agree on all points regarding the bees; the slightest dispute results in a worm taking possession of the hives, and some time after, instead of combs, webs will be found similar to cobwebs. Good beekeepers and raisers of bees are rare, and few know how to commence. Here is the best way of getting honey. When the hive is well furnished, cut out three to six combs of brood; this reduces swarming, and the bees occupy themselves with building beautiful combs filled with honey. I take these, and the bees build again, and a few months later I can remove more, and if the season is a good one, I do this when two or three swarms have left. This number of swarms is sufficient, and if they swarm more the swarms are very small, and there is no honey. A large number of bees sleep outside the hives, either on trees or in the flowers during their flowering. They work at night as well as in the day. If you want to alter the position of a hive or remove it, you must wait till Thursday evening, as this is the only night on which they reunite in their hives. On the command of the Almighty, they return to their hives on the eve of Friday, the day consecrated to God by His Prophet.

"In the olden days an old beekeeper was going on a pious pilgrimage to Mecca, but before leaving he took care to mark his bees by

sprinkling flour over them, but what was his astonishment to find that his own bees had arrived before him at the tomb of the Prophet.

"Now, we are not so successful as we were formerly, because we are governed by Christians."

I said, "You see, I get good results from my bees."

"Ah," he said, "you are a sorcerer; you compel the bees to work as much as you like, to build their combs in frames, take out the honey without crushing the wax; this is because you are all republicans, you succeed with the help of evil spirits, and at the last judgment all the bees will come and complain against you, because you have compelled them to work differently to what was intended by their Creator."

This is what this old fanatic related to me. These people are, and will always remain, blind enemies of all advancement and all civilization. Judge from this if anything can be done with these barbarous people. Their religion teaches them that the bee is a sacred fly, but they steal and destroy more than one hive during the year. It is hardly a month ago since some malefactors stole from us seven double hives, which they carried about one hundred metres away, and drove the bees out by means of smoke from a large heap of burning cowdung, broke up the combs, and carried away wax and honey. The laws are too lenient for such people, and France should have followed the American plan. It is very well to say, "Sweet land of liberty," but the Redskins disappear and in a short time it can be said, "and he was not."

My brother Philip has arrived with his family and bees at Nice, and Emile leaves us for Palestine to fill the void occasioned by the death of my poor brother Willy, and I shall move with my apiary to Kabylia.—JEAN BALDENSBERGER, *Algeria, September 7th, in B.B.J.*

From Farm and Home.

### Protect Now Against Spring Dwindling.

**I**N the busy season a bee lives only about five or six weeks, but the bees that go into winter quarters live through the winter under certain conditions. The bees that were hatched some time before the close of the season, and were at work in the fields when the end came, probably will not live to begin the season the next year. Bees that were hatched a short time before the close of the season, or after it closed, will live to work in the fields the next year. If, then, a colony of bees goes into winter quarters with old bees, with bees that were hatched before the season closes, few of them will live to work in the next season. Many die

in the hive and are found there in the spring, and as spring comes on, the remainder grow less and dwindle until few if any are left.

In the spring there is no remedy for spring dwindling. The bees, that is the old bees, will die because they have lived out the span of their lives, and nothing will keep them alive. The time to prevent spring dwindling is in the fall; indeed, the bee year begins, not in spring, but in the fall, just where the old year ends.

As soon as the work ceases in the fields, then the colony should be stimulated by feeding to continue to raise brood as long as the weather will permit. Depending on the weather, the bees may perhaps be fed through the month of October. The queen's eggs laid on the 1st of November will hatch in twenty-one days. The feeding must stop twenty-one days before possible cold weather, in order that all the eggs may hatch. The object is to fill the hive with young bees to live not only through the winter, but also till spring, and begin the season and work a while in it. If this plan be followed, if fall feeding be practised, there will be no dwindling in spring.—[JULIA ALLYN.

### The Honey Harvest.

WE are sorry to hear the honey crop is likely to be short this season. The bees, it appears, have swarmed very frequently, consequently have reduced their working strength. We learn that those beekeepers who do not allow swarming, but adopt the system of multiplying by dividing, have excellent returns. For instance, Rev. Mr. Beattie informs us that he commenced the honey season with seven hives. From the seven he has already extracted seven hundred and thirty-nine and a half pounds of well ripened honey, which is a little over one hundred and five pounds per hive. From one colony he extracted two hundred and fourteen and a half pounds of excellent honey.

Mr. Beattie believes that if apiarists would learn and judiciously practise the dividing system it would be greatly to their advantage. By so doing they could keep up the working force of each colony to its highest possible strength, instead of having it wasted by frequent swarms. They would waste no time watching swarming, would have no climbing of trees in their own or their neighbor's gardens to bring down and hive their clusters; nor would they have the annoyance of seeing their swarms taking themselves to parts unknown, led perhaps by very valuable queens. Of course by having the queens' wings clipped some of those troubles can be avoided, but not all.

Mr. Beattie does not approve of the frequent use of the extractor—twice or thrice during the season he considers enough. Of course, by extracting once a week or even oftener, as some do, a larger product will be obtained, but that product

cannot properly be called honey, and when sold in that state the act may very properly be called a fraud.

Neither does Mr. Beattie approve of extracting honey from the brood nest. In his own practice he leaves five or six large combs in the hives for brooding purposes, from which he extracts no honey, and thus secures the most of his brood, and besides reserves a fine quantity of good and well-ripened honey for winter stores.

Mr. Beattie also informs us that he has increased the number of his hives from seven to fifteen, all of which are strong, with the exception of one colony, and he believes they are all well supplied with winter stores.—*Campbellford Herald.*

## EDITORIAL.

The last issue of the A.B.J. came to us in a bran new dress.

o o o

Dr. Miller's "Stray Straws" in Gleanings are always interesting.

o o o

Our bee-keeping friends across the line are endeavoring to form another association.

o o o

See that every colony in your apiary is strong and well supplied with honey for wintering.

o o o

We believe there are some bee-keepers who have not as yet fed their bees for winter. We would warn them that there is danger in delay.

o o o

The appointment of Mr. Allen Pringle as superintendent of the honey exhibit at Chicago, we think, will meet with general approval.

o o o

ERRATUM.—In our last issue in Mr. Kitchin's article on "Wintering Bees" (p. 202, par. 2), for "boxes used for shipping teas," read "boxes that are used by nursery men for shipping trees."

o o o

We publish elsewhere an advertisement from Mr. N. Awrey, M. P. P. Ontario's Commissioner to the World's Columbian Exposition, in which he requests intending exhibitors to have their honey placed in tins, as the commission intend shipping the honey in cans to Chicago, where the Dominion Government will supply glass jars in which the honey will be exhibited.

During the past two weeks we have had beautiful weather in our northern districts; in fact, Thursday and Friday the 13th and 14th of this month were as warm as any two days in August.

o o o

This is the time of year to prevent spring dwindling. Bees put in winter quarters in proper condition and well wintered, will come out in the spring strong and vigorous colonies.

o o o

Our readers will confer a favor by forwarding us any items likely to be of interest to fellow bee-keepers. A one cent stamp will carry matter in open envelope marked "printer's copy."

o o o

We notice friend Holtermann has taken charge of an apiarian department in the "Canadian Live Stock and Farm Journal." The proprietors of that Journal have been fortunate in securing so experienced an apiarist as Mr. H. and we wish them every success.

o o o

From reports received, and from what information we can gather, we believe the amount of honey available at the present time is far less than during a number of previous years. A great many have been selling off their stocks, some at reduced prices, which we do not think advisable. All No. 1 honey should bring at least eight cents wholesale. Dark or inferior, of course, will not bring this price.

o o o

A correspondent of the *Australian Farm and Home* writes that paper to the effect that as far back as 1849 he had been closely observing the habits of the Australian native bees and never saw them build in any but the grass tree. The native blacks always search among the grass trees for honey. He is of opinion that the holes made in the trees, through which the bees enter them, are made by a large grub.

o o o

See that your bees have abundance of honey for winter: Mrs. Harrison, in *Orange Judd Farmer*, says that she would not risk less than twenty-five pounds and would prefer forty pounds. Weigh your colonies, and, after deducting the weight of frames, comb and hive, should

there be less than twenty-five pounds (in fact we prefer thirty), we would advise that feeders be used and sugar syrup fed, so that in the spring your colonies will be strong,—and when the fruit trees bloom, you will have lots of workers. Prof. Cook gives the following mode for feeding:—"To make the syrup, I use one quart of water to two of sugar, and heat till the sugar is dissolved. My friend, R. L. Taylor, first boils the water, then stirs in the sugar till all boils, when he says it will not granulate even with no acid added." We have found that a little extracted honey added to the syrup is even better than the acid.

o o o

Miss Jennie Atchley of Floyd, Texas, writes us as follows:—"I have discovered that queens do not often get lost on the mating trip; but, upon their return, are apt to enter the wrong hive and get killed. As we keep several hundred nuclei together, or in adjacent yards, we have had scores of queens return to the wrong hives, which, being queenless most of the time, they were accepted. But she always destroys the cell that is in the nucleus. I notice that where there are only one or two hives apart by themselves the queens do not get lost. Even the drones in the drone hive will scatter all over the yard, and queens act pretty nearly the same way. Who ever found a queenless bee-tree? I do not believe that one queen in a hundred gets lost or is captured by birds; they simply return to the wrong hive and get killed. If I had time I could tell you a long story of what I have learned of queen mating."

o o o

It is very satisfactory to note that Mr. Allen Pringle, of Selby, has received the appointment of Superintendent of the Canadian Honey Department at the World's Fair, to be held at Chicago next year. Out of the large number of Canadian Bee-keepers among whom mediocrity is not known, it would not have been difficult to select many very competent men for the position; but it was a difficult work indeed to select from so large a number just the individual to whom none of the others could raise any insuperable objection on the ground either of practice or precept. Upon mature consideration we have reason to

believe that Mr. Pringle's appointment will give very general satisfaction; and as evidence of the fact, we are glad to be able to give our readers in this issue of the BEE JOURNAL the substantial opinion of Mr. Holtermann of Brantford, who cordially approves of the appointment. The Napanee *Beaver* in referring to the fact says: "Canada raises the finest honey in the world, as was demonstrated at the International Exhibition held in London, and we understand the Canadian exhibit at Chicago will be the grandest we have ever displayed. The management of the department has been placed in efficient hands."

Since writing the above, we learn that Mr. Pringle has accepted the appointment which has been so deservedly conferred upon him, and we are quite sure that no better thing could be done. He is in every respect the right man in the right place; few are better advised than he is in regard to the duties that will devolve upon him; none will be more active in their discharge; and it is safe to say that all who may have occasion to seek either his assistance or advice will have both administered to them in the most thorough and satisfactory manner possible.

o o o

We are pleased to notice from a private letter of our esteemed friend, Mrs. Jennie Atchley, that she has it in contemplation to rear queens on an isolated island in the Gulf of Mexico, eighteen miles from shore. We are glad to know that this is being done, as the effect of it will be to test the value of drones reared from fertile workers as well as drones from unt fertile queens, and carry on many other experiments which will be both very interesting and instructive to many. This proposal of hers reminds us of our own experiments on an isolated island in Georgian Bay, where we found that rearing queens on small islands was very expensive. Bees taken from our apiaries at Beeton and allowed a fly on these islands did not seem to understand that there could be such a large body of water surrounding so small a piece of land or rock, as it might be more properly termed, there being more rock than land usually. If the weather were calm and the water perfectly smooth, as it almost always

was in some of the bays that were surrounded by rocks, the bees would alight upon the water in thousands. Frequently the water was as smooth as a mirror. We found the loss from this source very great. There being no bee pasture either on the islands we have mentioned, we were forced to feed them with barrels of sugar every year to keep them from starving. We hope that the island Mrs. Jennie Atchley has selected will have plenty of pasture, and be large enough to prevent great loss from bees falling in the water. Then, again, we found on small islands a very much greater loss of queens. The larger the island the less the percentage of loss of queens in mating; the smaller the island the greater the loss. We recollect on one occasion taking some queens and a lot of very fine drones out to an island without any timber on it, the bare rock rising up from the water and having a little hollow in the centre about 20 x 30 feet where we could place our hives without having them blown over by the wind. The loss was so great from both drones and queens at this point that we were forced to abandon it. Although the weather was very favorable for their mating, the loss was more than ten times greater than on some of our other islands. Now we do not hesitate to say that it is impossible for her to raise queens on this isolated island that she has selected for anything like the price that she could raise them for on shore; so we hope our bee-friends will be willing to pay her a remunerative price for her island-mated queens, as the experiments she proposes to make are for the benefit of all and each should bear his fair share of the expense. Then again, she can describe to us so clearly all of her experiments that we may understand them as thoroughly as if we had accomplished them ourselves. Anyone who possesses such rare talent in that direction is invaluable as a writer for a Journal.

Very Encouraging.



R. LEVI MOSS writes us as follows:—"Enclosed you will find \$1 for the C.B.J. to renew my subscription for another year. I like the C. B. J. splendidly, and am very much interested in the articles on



wintering contained in the last few numbers. I had thirteen colonies last spring, which have since increased to twenty-five, and have taken from them eight hundred pounds of comb and extracted honey, and forty pounds of wax, which is indeed very encouraging."

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