

The Canadian Bee Journal

Devoted to the Interests of Bee-Keepers

Vol. 17, No. 5.

May 1909

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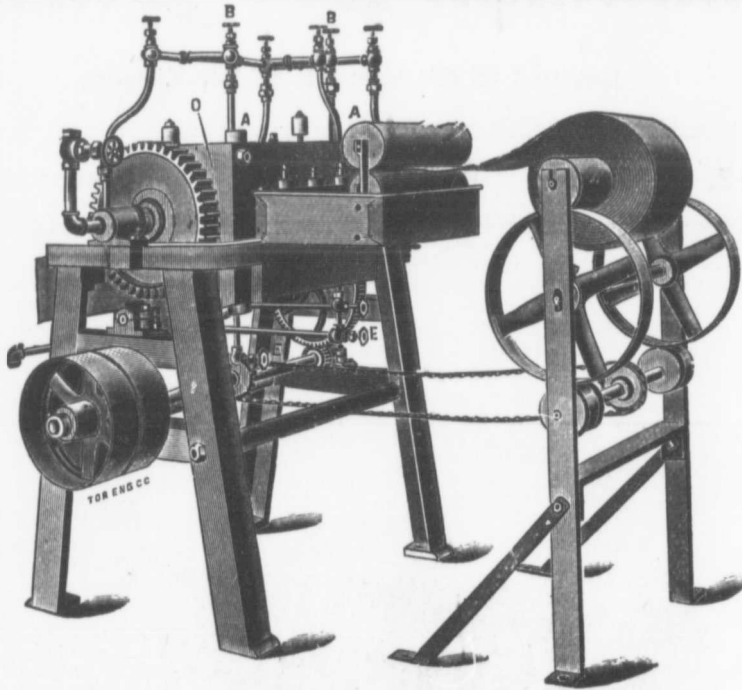


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The Canadian Bee Journal

Devoted to the Interests of Bee-Keepers

JAS. J. HURLEY, Editor

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Brantford, Ont.

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May, 1909

The Canadian Bee Journal

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

JAS. J. HURLEY, EDITOR, BRANTFORD, ONTARIO, CANADA

Vol. 17, No. 5.

MAY, 1909

Whole No. 531

Referring to the discussion of foul brood and its methods of treatment, inspection, etc., we must ask our correspondents to discuss the subjects from a bee-keeper's point of view exclusively. Personal references, with "stings," "niggers in the fence," etc., are highly objectionable, and must be discontinued. Unfortunately for us, there is a very sad division among some of our Ontario bee-keepers with reference to foul brood, its treatment and its inspection. Partizans of one party are inclined to sneer at what the other party writes, and vice versa, which makes it very difficult for us to maintain a just balance between the two. The columns of The Journal are open to all our readers to discuss all matters pertaining to apiculture. Foul brood, early and late inspection, are legitimate matters for discussion. Objection has been taken to the discussion of early and late inspection. The fact that there is a difference of opinion upon the matter is a pretty sure indication that it should be discussed. These matters are of great interest to the great majority of our readers, while at the same time they know nothing, and do not care to know, of the petty animosities existing between individuals.

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For the first time in our experience we found no pollen in our hives. All that the bees had was used up with early breeding, and then the queen ceased laying. When the hives were examined, fresh pollen was coming in, and large blocks of new-laid eggs were to be seen. This great dearth of pollen must have been owing to conditions that prevailed last fall.

Mr. Byer, in his Notes in this issue, seems to give a very effective answer to the issue of early and late inspection. The Department of Agriculture has placed no prohibition on the matter where it is thought to be necessary; but—and there is a very large but here—who knows whether it be necessary or not unless they go and see? How many of the inspectors have done as Mr. Alpaugh? We certainly think his action most commendable. He does not say that he was instructed to look over his territory in the manner in which he relates it. If he was not, his conduct is all the more praiseworthy. He is taking intelligent care of the field assigned him. This is what we call "using one's head."

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On going out to the bee-yard one morning recently we found the grass literally covered with bees, some hovering on the wing just above the points of the grass blades, others crawling up the grass blades. We watched carefully to see what it meant. There had been a light rain the night before. The sun was rapidly drying up the grass, but there remained just one little bead of water on each blade. This it was the bees were after. When they reached the little sparkling drop they would sip at it till it all disappeared. They were after water, and got it in all its purity.

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Speaking of locality. While only five miles out in the country examining some bees at the homes of a couple of farmers, recently, we found the bees abundantly supplied with pollen. And this is a spring when the cry for pollen is almost universal over the continent.

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That man is fortunate who has his bees packed on their summer stands through this trying spring. In commenting on this matter on former occasions, we stated our preference for outside wintering because of this special feature. What an advantage it is to the bees to be tucked up warm and cosily during this cold, wet, dreary spring. Our bees are warm and dry, and have no difficulty in keeping up the heat of the brood-nest.

Notes and Comments

[By J. L. Byer]

"Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth." Pardon my seeming irreverence in giving the above quotation in the discussion of a secular matter, but really April C.B.J. gives abundant reasons for such a text being suggested. A few words re the fall treatment of foul brood, by the writer of these Notes, led to replies from others, and incidentally the matter of early inspection was brought to the front as well, and, presto! the result is an array of talent brought to the C.B.J. such as the old Journal has not often had the privilege of boasting of. We mean, of course, the communications from Messrs. France, Taylor, Wright, Gemmill et al. Surely this scribbler deserves a vote of thanks for all this, eh?

[It is hereby tendered.—Ed.]

I had not intended to say anything about this matter of early inspection, and, as far as any personal references are concerned, we care naught, as we believe we are pretty well immune from "stings," whether they come from *Apis mellifica* or the genus homo; but, as we have again consented to act as inspector, silence on our part might be construed by some that we were keeping "mum" for a reason, hence the matter becomes, as the doctors would say, "something concerning our professional standing."

To be brief, I wish to say emphatically that **nobody** opposed April inspection un-

der **urgent** conditions at that Brantford Convention, and Mr. Hodgetts, who was present, said that in such cases inspectors would be sent if asked for. What more could be asked for by any reasonable person? May I be pardoned for thinking that all this noise is, in my opinion, nothing but "a tempest in a teapot," and for inclining to the view that there is "a nigger on the fence" somewhere, who has not yet revealed himself. Now, as to April inspection, a short résumé of the weather of the past month might be interesting. April 1st the weather was quite balmy, and about noon the thermometer went up to 50°, allowing us to take the few bees we winter inside out on the summer stands. Then the weather turned cool and windy till about one day, somewhere about the 15th, when some other bee-men took their bees out of the cellar. On the 18th the bees brought in a very little pollen, but, as I trust all the inspectors are good Sabbatharians, I presume none of them would have done any work on the day in question, as it happened to be Sunday. From that time right up to now (May 1st) the weather has not been cool, but **cold**, with high winds nearly every day—so cold, in fact, that hardly a bee has left the hives for water right in the yard. All told, we have not had over four days in April that the clusters would be **naturally** broken, and any work done would only be done after a thorough smoking to get the bees moving. Now, I ask in all sincerity, how many bee-keepers would like to have their bees unpacked, and the brood-nests broken up, when the thermometer was at the freezing point in the month of April? As has already been stated, the Department, through Mr. Hodgetts, said that a man would be sent if asked for in an urgent case, and I want to say that **only** an urgent case would justify inspection in April weather as we get it. When Mr. Sibbald was asked at that Convention what he would do if he knew of a case of foul brood

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near his apiary in the early spring, he replied that he would go and see the matter, ask him to contract all entrances, and otherwise guard against any robbing, till suitable weather came to allow inspection. Right within ten miles of me at the present time I know of a bee-keeper who found a case of foul brood this spring within flying distance of his bees, and he did just what Mr. Sibbald said he would do under like circumstances. This bee-keeper notified me of the case, and told me what had been done, and just as soon as weather conditions justify it the yard will be inspected. The bee-keeper mentioned much preferred this course in preference to a tearing up of the foul yard in such inclement weather as we have had, and I want to say that often a little attention and tact on the part of neighboring bee-keepers in the early spring is much more effective very often than is the case when an inspector is called in at that time. As far as we would be personally concerned, no one would accuse us of being selfish in refusing to go on inspection in April, as at that time we are not very busy, and the wages would be real handy. Later on, when very busy, the *per diem* is not nearly so attractive, but then we should consider the other fellow as well as ourselves. As far as the word "suspected" is concerned, we have often, in as far as it applies to foul-broody apiaries, found it to be quite a bogey. More than once an alarm would be raised about a certain yard, and examination would find "all serene" there, when perhaps a neighboring apiary **above suspicion** would be found to be diseased. Considerable prominence has been given to a statement said to have been made by myself at that Convention, in effect that foul brood could not be detected in the early spring. What I did say was this: In colonies **slightly** affected in the fall, that were fed up good and heavy, there was a possibility of the dried-down scales being covered up with honey in the early spring. I

still hold that view, but, as far as the uncovered scales or other foul matter is concerned, we cannot see why the disease should be harder to detect in the spring than at any other time, provided the brood-nest is thoroughly examined. Perhaps the inference is that the writer cannot detect foul brood at any time. We might personally incline to this view, if it were not for the fact of our holding such flattering testimonials as to our abilities in this line from no less an expert on foul brood matters than our esteemed friend Mr. McEvoy.

Really, Mr. Editor, April C.B.J. had so much "foul brood" that one could almost detect that "glue-pot odor," and, as one of the transgressors, we hereby promise that we are done with the subject for the time, and, if all goes well and we are spared, we hope to talk about something of a sweeter savor in the next few issues of the Journal.

A few weeks ago we met a farmer bee-keeping friend, and after a short chat about the bees, he remarked, "It's a caution how bee-keepers differ on so many points as to bee management; do they really agree upon anything?" Friend Alpaugh's article re the feeding of artificial pollen brought my friend's question vividly to my mind again, for upon this subject there are many different opinions. Personally, I have only had a few seasons when the bees would take the artificial product, and the present spring, during the very few days that bees could fly, has been one on which the bees would simply go crazy over flour or other fine meal when they could get it. However, what I was going to say was that I have met many old bee-keepers who have come to the conclusion that too much of this artificial pollen is often a detriment instead of a benefit, as the combs would get filled up to the exclusion of the natural product that would come in later on. Some have said that they have had the combs clogged to the detriment of brood-rearing, and for that reason have

discontinued giving it to them. Personally, I am "on the fence" on the matter, but, whether it does the bees good or not, one thing certain—it gives me a lot of enjoyment to see them loading up with the white pellets. A little tragedy in beedom occurred this spring at the home apiary on account of the bees being so eager for this artificial pollen. It was in this wise: The farmer on the place had the engine and chopper for half a day's work in his granary, the door of the latter being in the south side of the barn in a very sheltered place. The chopper had stood just inside of the door, and when operations were over about two inches deep of fine meal—or, rather, flour—was on the floor. The door was left open, and although there was some meal in the yard, yet the bees soon spotted this sheltered nook and simply swarmed into this open doorway in the sun. One of the men told me there were "millions" of them, and when I came to the place it certainly was a pleasing sight to see the busy little fellows. Well, that doorway was a favorite place for the bees whenever any could possibly leave the hives, and it was a wonder to me to see on what cool days they would fly out to the place. Of course, it was only a few rods away, and so sheltered from all winds that they would not get chilled while loading up. But, alas! one cool day the door blew shut, and the bees, flying around, found an open knot-hole and went in by the hundreds. There they chilled to death, and the next day I found the floor simply covered with dead bees—perhaps not dead at the time, but so far gone that they never recovered.

[The feeding of "artificial pollen" is all right under extraordinary circumstances—such a spring as this, for instance. We think the quantity could be sufficiently controlled so as not to allow the combs to get clogged up. It is easy to overdo any good thing if not done with caution and well-balanced judgment. The feeding of pollen is a "makeshift" or a "necessary evil" at best, and is all right if carefully done.—Ed.]

FOUL BROOD

Its Detection and Cure

[Issued by the Dept. of Agriculture, Ontario.]

This dread disease of the honey bee is due to a bacteria known to scientists as *Bacillus alvei*. The larvæ, or brood, of the bees in its early stages is attacked by the foul brood germs, decomposes, decays and settles in a shapeless mass to the bottom and lower side of the cell. It becomes yellowish-brown in color at first, but later brown or coffee color, and gives off a very offensive odor. If pricked by a pin or toothpick it will be found ropy, and will draw or string out a half inch or so. If the cell has been capped, the capping recedes and presents a sunken appearance. In time the matter dries down, and is of such a sticky, gluey nature that it adheres strongly to the side and bottom of the cell, thus leaving what we call the scale or stain mark of foul brood.

In looking for the disease, hold the frame or comb so that the light may shine into it. The stain marks may be seen by standing with your back to the sun and holding so that the light will shine on and into the lower side of the cell.

Other forms of dead brood, such as chilled, starved, pickled and poisoned brood, are different in character, and may be described as follows: The larvæ dies, but holds its form better; that is, it shrinks or dries from the outside, gives off very little odor and less offensive, does not adhere so tightly to the cell side, and may be removed by a pin or toothpick, and when pricked by them will not string out, but appears watery. These diseases will be removed by the bees themselves.

Not so with foul brood, however, for soon after the death of the larvæ it becomes so foul that the bees will not attempt to clean it out. The cell is apparently avoided, until it becomes dried

down, and thenceforward. The moisture scale or stain marks of foul brood, the honey or fed to larvæ, congenial matter and their multiplication. The more cells become dwindled and prey to robbers carry it to their mit the disease soon destroyed jeopardized.

Watch your hives. Whenever you see a look at the larvæ and white-looking cells, apply the tests to the matter. If you find the close the hive and

Method

To cure it we use the method, getting rid of the honey, for there are germs. Go to the hives, when the bees are flying, and take the bees off into other hives. Clean the frames with smoke. We have thus got rid of this colony with the honey. The colony the bees have the diseased honey rid of that. The honey that shook out on the floor is that remains on the inside of the bees would store the comb supplied only given foundation and they must work it is necessary. It is digested and used;

down, and the odor has become less noticeable. The bees then accept it again, and after polishing it fill it with nectar. The moisture thus applied softens the scale or stain mark and releases the thousands of foul brood germs which float in the honey or nectar—waiting only until fed to larvæ, thus coming in contact with congenial matter, and causing its death, and their further development and multiplication. Thus it spreads; more and more cells become polluted, the colony dwindles and dies, leaving its honey a prey to robbers, who unsuspectingly carry it to their homes, and thereby transmit the disease, until an apiary will be soon destroyed and neighboring apiaries jeopardized.

Watch your brood; take an interest in it. Whenever you lift out a frame, have a look at the larvæ. If it is healthy, fat and white-looking, all is well. If not, apply the tests and find out what is the matter. If you discover the real thing, close the hive and mark it for treatment.

Method of Treatment

To cure it we will follow the McEvoy method, getting rid of the combs and honey, for therein are the disease and germs. Go to the colony late in the evening, when the bees will not fly or scatter to other hives. Clip the queen and shake the bees off into the hive and give a set of frames with small foundation starters. We have thus got rid of the combs as far as this colony is concerned. Not so with the honey. As soon as we disturb the colony the bees load themselves with the diseased honey, and we must still get rid of that. They also clean up any honey that shook out during the manipulation on the floor of the hive, and any that remains on bur combs or was attached to the inside of the hives. This the bees would store if they had a particle of comb supplied ready. We have only given foundation starters, however, and they must work it out; wax secretion is necessary. Most of the honey is digested and used; but they soon have

cells built and may store some of the diseased honey therein. To make a complete cure it is therefore necessary to again shake four days later, the same way as before, and supply full sheets of foundation.

Melt or burn up the old combs and the first set of starters, and the cure is complete if thoroughly carried out.

This cure can only be applied in the early part of the season and during a honey flow. If no flow is on the bees must be fed or they will swarm out and perhaps scatter into one or more hives, and thus make matters worse.

If the disease is discovered late in the season, and the colony is still strong, leave it until November, take the diseased combs away, and supply honey from a clean colony, in full sealed combs. Be sure that the colony from which you take these sealed combs is itself free from disease.

Saving of Brood

Brood from badly-diseased colonies is of no value and dangerous, and should be melted, burned or otherwise destroyed at once. Brood from colonies having only a few cells diseased might be placed over an average colony only slightly diseased, and the queen caged. When most of the brood has hatched, treat as given above.

Saving of Combs

Combs free from pollen, that have never been used for brood-rearing, that are white and clean, and have been dried from all honey before the colony was treated, are reasonably safe for use as super combs. As a rule, however, it would pay better to melt them into wax and use full sheets of foundation. All doubtful combs should be melted down.

Empty hives, also, in which the bees have died or diseased combs have been stored or carried, should be scalded or the inside burned over with a gasoline or oil torch.

fine of not less than \$25 and not more than \$50 for the first offence, and not less than \$50 and not more than \$100 for the second and subsequent offence, and the said justice of the peace shall make an order directing the said owner and possessor forthwith to carry out the directions of the inspector. 53 V., c. 66, s. 7.

8. Where an owner or possessor of bees disobeys the directions of the said inspector, or offers resistance to or obstructs the said inspector, a justice of the peace may, upon the complaint of the said inspector, cause a sufficient number of special constables to be sworn in, and such special constables shall, under the directions of the Inspector, proceed to the premises of such owner or possessor and assist the inspector to seize all the diseased colonies and infected appurtenances and burn them forthwith, and, if necessary, the said inspector or constables may arrest the said owner or possessor and bring him before a justice of the peace, to be dealt with according to the provisions of the preceding section of this Act. 53 V., c. 66, s. 8.

9. Before proceeding against any person before a justice of the peace, the said inspector shall read over to such person the provisions of this Act, or shall cause a copy thereof to be delivered to such person. 53 V., c. 66, s. 9.

10. Every bee-keeper or other person who is aware of the existence of foul brood, either in his own apiary or elsewhere, shall immediately notify the Minister of the existence of such disease, and in default of so doing shall on summary conviction before a justice of the peace be liable to a fine of \$5 and costs. 53 V., c. 66, s. 10.

11. Each inspector shall report to the Minister as to the inspection of any apiary in such form and manner as the Minister may direct, and all reports shall be filed in the Department of Agriculture, and shall be made public as the Minister

may direct, or upon order of the Legislative Assembly.

12. Chapter 283 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1897, intituled "An Act for the Suppression of Foul Brood Among Bees," is repealed.

INTERESTING GERMAN ITEMS

[Translated by Jacob Haberer]

Races of Bees.

For the German bee-keeper three races of bees are of most interest: (1) The German; (2) the Italian; (3) the Krain bee. Up to 1850 there was only one race of bees in Germany, which was called the German bee after the introduction of other kinds. Their color is black or brown, and they are the best honey bees we have. They fill our honey crocks, and even in poor years they will not let the keeper come out without any honey. They keep the population together and do not split the force with extreme swarming, and therefore saves a lot of work and vexation. And if they are not as gentle as some other races, we will not consider that as a fault, as they are German, and therefore defend their homes with Teutonic bravery. Most of our honey years are medium, and it is always the German bees that accomplish some reasonably good work. They are good housekeepers, and do not use so much honey; they do not need to breed so much, as they are more hardy and live longer; they work and store more honey than a stronger colony of another race, as the weaker, but more resisting, German colony has just as many, or even more, field bees, and does not need such a large amount of honey for brood-rearing as others. The German bee only gives us work in a good honey flow—blessed may she be for it! If the swarming races work even just as good they soon slack up when the swarming fever sets in. Do we not notice that they gather more industriously in the spring, but their ardor will soon be less? The Germans are a little inclined to take something foreign better than our own.

If only from far away, then it must be of better value. So it was with the long-tongued Americans that Frenenstein imported a few years ago. Many fast bee-keepers became a little easier in pocket by it, and found afterwards that the prominent Americans had shorter tongues than our own bees.

The Italians are different in color, very industrious, not an extreme swarmer, but don't stand the winter so well, and are often very weak in spring, as they start breeding too early in spring for our climatic conditions, causing too much flying in rough spring weather, resulting in great losses of population. Their eagerness will lead them to robbing wherever they get a chance; their own homes they defend with great heroism.

Now for the Krain bee. If a beginner wishes to get many colonies in a short time, they are the bees. They are very hardy, good gatherers in all kinds of weather, and very gentle, and will bless the apiarist with numerous swarms. Whatever they gather in spring and summer they will transfer into brood, and little honey is left after the swarming, and if there is not a later honey flow fall feeding is necessary, otherwise there will be heavy losses in winter and spring. Also their early breeding causes early flying and spring dwindling. Many bad results we had with these Krainers; even the crosses of them did not do very well. Beginner, go to your neighboring bee-keeper at home if you want to be successful; buy from the experienced, benefit yourself and do a favor to our own native bee. After many years, it is now the aim of our most practical apiarists to breed and improve our native German bee, and in large circles of bee-keepers they find at last that the investigation without the expert, and the latter without the former, cannot get well ahead.—By Expeditor Paul, Furth, I. B.

In another article of the same number, M. Komposh speaks much the same of the heather bee of North Germany as is

said of the Krain bee. He got two hives of them some years ago, just for experience, and he let them have their own way according to their instinct. By the end of the season he had 16 colonies. He calls them extremely good comb-builders. These bees are largely sold in other parts of Germany to strengthen up the other bees in population—especially so in the fall. They are sold as "naked" colonies (without honey).—Menncher B.Z.

Brood Diseases in Bavaria.

Bavaria reported, in 1908, 146 brood-diseased colonies, in 45 apiaries, out of 392,310 colonies. They distinguish three different diseases: (1) Brood pest, caused by *Bacillus larvæ* or *brandenbourgiensis*, affecting the sealed brood mostly, 71 colonies in 26 apiaries; (2) foul brood, produced by *Bacillus alvei*, mostly accompanied by *streptococcus apis*, affecting more the open brood, 64 colonies in 15 apiaries; (3) Sanerbrood, originated by *streptococcus apis*, in 4 apiaries, 11 colonies.—M. B. Z.

The main topics in German bee journals at present are about improving and breeding the German black bee again. One bee-keeper says, "Let us follow our bee-keeping brothers of Switzerland, and let us breed from our precious, choicest black bee again, as they have done for the last 20 years, and let us be as successful as they were. They have such a strain of the blacks now that we, if we had not a good bee-keepers' heart, might get almost black with tempting envy." The other great trouble is the manufacture of artificial honey and the fight against it.

HONEY MARKET

TORONTO—Market is quiet, with prices unchanged. Combs, \$2 to \$2.75 per doz., and strained, 10 to 11c per lb.

MONTREAL—The market for honey remains steady under a fair demand and small supplies. We quote: Clover, white honey, 15c to 16c; dark grades, 12c to 13c; white extracted, 11c to 12c; buckwheat, 8c to 9c.

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Chalmers' Observations

Thanks! I had not anticipated seeing my name occur so often in a single Journal as it did in the April number of C.B.J., and by the time I got through I was thoroughly ashamed of it. However, I can only thank your contributors and yourself, Mr. Editor, for the many kind expressions. Mr. McEwen's information is very valuable, and goes to prove that if the bees fill their stomachs with honey it will not be all digested in two, three, nor even four, days. My thanks are also due Mr. McEvoy for the high compliment he pays me, and also to Mr. J. L. Byer. If the sentiments he expresses are his true convictions, I don't think he will find cause to change his opinion of me in the present article; but as to arguing with him in the defence he puts up for the Alpaugh system, I will only refer him to what I have to say to Mr. Alpaugh below.

The April Journal reminded me very much of a story that is going the rounds of the papers:

He was a man of peace, and he came upon two youths in a back street, fighting. Accordingly he pushed through the crowd and persuaded the combatants to desist.

"Let me beg of you, my good fellows," earnestly besought the peacemaker, "to settle your dispute by arbitration. Each of you choose half a dozen friends to arbitrate."

"Hurrah!" yelled the crowd. "Do as the gentleman says, boys."

Having seen the twelve arbitrators selected to the satisfaction of both sides, the man of peace went on his way, rejoicing in the thought of having once again prevailed upon brute force to yield to peaceful argument.

Half an hour later he returned that way and was horrified to find the whole street fighting, while in the distance police whistles could be heard blowing and police rushing to the spot from all quarters.

"Good gracious! What is the matter now?" asked the peacemaker of an on-looker.

"Shure, sor," was the reply, "the arbitrators are at work."

"Crow."—Will the Editor and my fellow-bee-keepers kindly excuse me this month while I accept a challenge proposed by Jacob Alpaugh in April number of C. B. J., pages 140 and 141? The idea of having to "crow" is altogether foreign to me, and I didn't feel as if I was "perched," but since brother Alpaugh considers I am, and is going to see that I "crow or come down," I have decided to "crow!" I feel pretty much like the Highlander, who when challenged to fight replied: "I am sixty years of old and I've never fought (fought) already, but I'm not afraid of any man my own old or my own heavy."

Now, I have directed my readers to the Journal, and even its pages which provoked the penning of this article, and as it is an unusual and uncalled-for occurrence, it demands unusual tactics. So if friend A. I. Root don't consider it an infringement on his rights, I will direct you to a text in Genesis 28:12—"And Jacob dreamed and beheld a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached higher than 'Gilderoy's kite,' and behold thirteen headless foul brood inspectors 'ascending and descending on it.'"

Oh, Jacob, stop, stop! You say you saw thirteen headless foul brood inspectors ascending and descending on that ladder? Why, man, the Minister of Agriculture would never appoint headless foul brood inspectors, and, besides that, I have it from the best authority that there has been fourteen apiary inspectors appointed this year.

"Well, you see," says Jacob, "I make the fourteenth, but was a-dreaming, and between you and me and the gate-post, Mr. Chalmers, it is altogether probable that the Department was dictated to as to who should be inspectors by men of similar characteristics to the inspectors."

Well, Jacob, your explanation seems feasible, and probably no one can comprehend it more readily than I can.

But about your dream, Jacob; it has so far been a marvel to me, and I cannot

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for the life of me conceive what those headless foul brood inspectors were going up that ladder for, seeing it only reached a little higher than Gilderoy's kite. I could have understood their motive had the ladder reached as high as Jacob's of old, but, unless you explain, I must confess that I am nonplussed.

"Well, I'll just tell you privately, Mr. Chalmers, that I was doing a little crowing: had even boasted that I could knock McEvoy's four-day system of curing foul brood higher than 'Gilderoy's kite,' and most likely it stuck on top of the ladder, and I guess the newly-appointed inspectors were wanting the use of it."

Well, I'm not surprised at that, Jacob. That is where McEvoy's system has been, "is now," and I think we may as well say "ever shall be, world without end." Listen, Jacob! Did you hear that Amen! by such a chorus of bee-keepers the world over? Well, your dream begins to look as if there was something in it. Was that all of it?

"No, that wasn't all. I dreamt that McEvoy and you were roosters on a perch. I'll not tell you what I dreamt I was myself, only that I was a quadruped, and that corns were annoying me badly, and I threatened that if any of you two roosters would tread too hard on my corns that I would see that you crow or come down off that perch!"

O Jacob, Jacob, do stop! It is just one of two things with you—you have either been in a trance, or have lately been in conversation with Mr. R. F. Holtermann, of Brantford, who has either been going, or writing, to a place in Ohio mostly every two weeks, and when there has probably met in with Mr. Chalton Fowls, of Oberlin, an excellent bee-keeper; but from what Mr. Holtermann has told you, you have probably conceived the idea that because Mr. Fowls was the head of the Fowls family, that naturally he would be an old rooster. But let me tell you, Jacob, it is both preposterous and indiscreet to reason in

that way, and you should neither call Mr. Fowls a rooster nor those to whom you referred last month.

You better come away from Brantford, and if ever there again, be sure and call on the Editor of the Canadian Bee Journal, remember me to him, and be sure and keep on the right side of him, for I am told that he is mighty Armstrong, and if he gets into a Hurley mood he might hurl a Shaver like you over one of those Cra(i)gs about that city, and then, of Cou(r)se, you would be in Anguish and probably far from any Ho(l)me. Speaking of home makes me think of what a long face Mr. M. B. Holmes, of Athens, will assume over this dream of yours. He knows that I wouldn't call you a rooster—"not a bit of it"—but if you mean all you say, McEvoy and I will have to spur up and whet our weapons of defence, for with us it will be All-claw, while on your part it will be All-paw.

Mr. Alpaugh states near the end of his article that "D. Chalmers, McEvoy and himself are the best of friends, so far as he knows." I can most readily give my hand on that, so far as I am concerned, and as for Mr. McEvoy, I never heard him say the first word against Jacob Alpaugh. On the contrary, I remember Mr. McEvoy one time telling me about how Alpaugh cut his section foundation, and the contrivance I used happened to be hanging on the wall near by. Reaching for it, I told Mac that this was what I used. He seemed to consider it better than Alpaugh's, but there and then said: "Oh, my, Alpaugh and you would make a great team."

Now, that was esteeming me more highly than I would myself. I would never think of getting on to the balance against Jacob Alpaugh as a skilled bee-keeper, for I believe he would send me higher than "Gilderoy's kite," but if ever there should be a test made, and the balance acts as I fear it would, I hope Wilbur Wright will chance along just at that time with his airship, accept me as a

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passenger and land me safely on terra firma, as I have yet a few "Observations" which I would like to give to the readers of the Canadian Bee Journal, if such is their desire.

We have now come to where it is my painful duty to measure swords with Mr. Jacob Alpaugh, and I am very sorry, indeed, that in defence of the McEvoy plan of curing foul brood that I have to expose Mr. Alpaugh as I am about to do, and use another party's name, as well—a thing I would rather not do, but, if Mr. Alpaugh is honest about it, I am sure he will admit that he is at fault, and I will leave it with my readers to decide in their own minds.

In the April C.B.J., page 141, at the head of the first column, Mr. Alpaugh says:

"I will just relate one case I found in particular. Mr. Beattie, a short distance out of Stratford, just at the commencement of the clover flow, 1907, shook four colonies according to McEvoy's plan, but, to make a sure job, starved them six days instead of four, then gave them foundation."

In the first place, Mr. Alpaugh says "that Mr. Beattie shook four colonies according to McEvoy's plan." Well, now, for the life of me, I cannot remember ever reading or hearing anything about a particular way that McEvoy has of shaking bees. I guess I've been "asleep or on a journey" at the time it was going the rounds.

The way I shake is to lift the combs carefully from the hive, one at a time, being as cautious as possible not to excite the bees, give one shake, not too heavy; and if the comb was held for a short time, all the bees on that comb would be doing their level best to load up with honey; but instead of allowing that, after you have given the first shake, count 1, 2, 3, and just where the 4 would come in give a shake that means business, followed in rapid succession with two or three lighter but sharp little shakes; then, with the wing of a headless goose, handled rapidly, the few re-

maining bees are easily dislodged. Now, if there is anything in the shaking, I hope both Messrs. McEvoy and Alpaugh will out with it. Let us read on: "But to make a sure job, starved them six days instead of four," etc. Well, that is not the McEvoy system at all—that is the Beattie system—and it would be as well to advise him to starve the bees eight days and make it deathly sure.

Mr. Alpaugh then goes on to say that he "called to inspect Mr. Beattie's apiary July 9th, 1907, and found three of the four hives (which had been shaken about a month before) quite bad with foul brood." That does not surprise me in the least. Mr. Alpaugh does not say whether he treated those bees according to his two-day system or not, but if he didn't treat them according to some system, he wasn't doing his duty. I called to see a Mr. Beattie's bees not far from Stratford, Sept. 8th, 1908, and found foul brood in his yard on that date.

"Oh, by George! Alpaugh's down, first go-off!"

Now, McEvoy, I would like you to keep quiet. He is down, but may be up before they count ten, and I may have to give him another dig or two, and you might excite me too much, making such a noise. Besides that, there are both ministers of the Gospel and ex-preachers in our ranks, and what will they think of you swearing like that! Don't crow too soon, but let us make this the Waterloo of the two-day system, and then on May 24th, 1909, while celebrating the birthday of our lamented sovereign, Queen Victoria, we could also hold a demonstration over our victory. But while Alpaugh is trying to get on his feet, I might try to describe this Beattie bee-yard, but will not promise to describe it as picturesquely as Mr. Isaac Balmer of Burlington could. Mr. Beattie was from home, and little or no information could be gleaned from his better-half. This little apiary was planted amongst some fruit trees, which I observed bore

apples. Some hives were still in their winter cases, with the previous winter's packing around them. Some of those cases contained hives of living bees, while others seemed to have become the last resting-place of many a gallant honey-gatherer; but there were a number of cases overrun with a vine which I feared was poison ivy, and I made no pretence of opening them at all.

"England expects every man to do his duty!" and so does the Department of Agriculture, but if the latter insists that I should wade into poison ivy to inspect bees, I would beg to be excused and throw up the job. Besides the hives in winter cases, there were also a number standing around in the long grass, and the history of their interior was somewhat similar to those in the rough cases, but the entrances were almost invisible because of the luxuriant grass which grew in front of them. I won't say for certain that any of the entrances in this yard were completely obscured, but I can take my oath that the entrances of a goodly number in the next apiary we visited were perfectly hidden with grass. The bees had to alight fully half-way up the front of the hive, turn upside down and force their way down through the grass. At this place we couldn't find a living soul about the premises, but heard a dog advise us to keep a reasonable distance. Were I to go on picturing this yard I could give you many other peculiarities we saw there, but since Mr. Alpaugh is now somewhat recovered, I ask him to "be honest" and acknowledge that the diseased colonies in these and other such yards are truly fit subjects for a quarantine station.

Reading on in Mr. Alpaugh's letter, he says:

"Now for the opposite. Mr. Jones, a short distance out of Port Elgin, shook a large number of colonies in 1906 according to the McEvoy method"—(note the shaking called to account again)—"but instead of leaving them four days, something took up his attention, and he left them altogether—did nothing with them

after the first shake—just left them go. In 1907 I examined every one of those colonies carefully and could not find one cell of foul brood."

Now, friend Alpaugh, I believe every word of that. I repeat it—I believe every word of it; but that is not McEvoy's method, or whatever you may call his system for curing foul brood. That is a game of chance, just the same as cards are, and which you may understand better than I do, having had no practice with them at all. I am something similar, but not quite so bad, as a young man from this part, who some years ago took up education and succeeded in securing a first-class certificate as a school teacher, but when he went to Toronto to try for something higher, he was asked by some of the boys if he ever played euchre. "Well, no," he replied, "I never played any instrumental music whatever."

If you will turn to March number of C.B.J., page 105, near the top of first column, you will see what success I had with merely putting a diseased colony of bees on starters and not shaking the second time, but can only say, as I said in that paper, that it would be folly to depend on that for a cure. Mr. Alpaugh considers three days just as good as four and has said that two are just as good as either three or four, and now holds up merely shaking as being effectual; but if he wants a still shorter cut, I would direct him to Mr. John Bridgeman, of St. Mary's, who says he has had bees cure themselves!

How would it be for us to sit down right here and reason together as to whether the chances of the one system are more certain than the other or not? Will just take that case of Mr. Jones, quoted by Mr. Alpaugh. If the inspector for Huron does not shrink from his duty he may tell us in the fall that he found the cappings of some brood cells had shrunk in Mr. Jones' apiary, which is one of the features of foul brood, and if such proves true, then Inspector Alpaugh

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It was like this: Those bees were handled well when being shook (I never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Jones, to my knowledge, but know that he has done his work well), and didn't give the bees time to bag much of the diseased honey. Shortly after being shook the bees settled down to comb construction, and as soon as ever there were cells nicely formed the bees began unloading, or, in other words, disgorging the honey brought with them from the diseased combs, less what had digested.

The cell construction proceeded, and every once in a while there was accommodation for more to unload, and so on, until they were all relieved of the diseased honey, but the bees that unloaded first had gone to the field, and nectar was coming in like hurrah, and in an incredibly short time the cells deepened, and the honey which was brought in from the diseased combs is soon buried deep in the bottom of the cells, but those strips of comb into which the diseased honey was deposited were along near the under side of the top bars of the frames, and it so happened that the bees never used any of it when brooding that season, but the germs of foul brood were there all the same, "and don't you forget it." Winter came on, and the bees fed on this honey and had it all consumed before brooding commenced the next spring. That is my theory, and if any one else can suggest any more plausible reason for those bees of Mr. Jones' or my own being cured with one shaking, we will be pleased to hear from them.

Now, take the two-day system. It might easily be that some of the bees had not unloaded their diseased honey at the end of that period, or had just recently disgorged, and in the bustle of the second shaking had gobbled up some of the old honey, and thereby carried disease to the hives into which they were finally put on full sheets of foundation.

Now, the intelligent reader can readily understand that had those bees been left on the starters for another day, it was quite probable that that diseased honey would have been buried by the new so deeply that bees would not have reached it when loading up during the second shaking, and to leave them the four days the danger was out of sight, the diseased honey being completely out of their reach and consequently go to their permanent hive on foundation with a clean sheet. Beattie thought he would make a combination of the McEvoy and Alpaugh systems and made a failure, and it does not surprise me in the least.

Now then, since we've had a good rest, we might try another round. I am not certain about the year, but I think it was in 1900 that Mr. McEvoy was around this part, and when in my apiary I pointed out a certain colony to him as having had suspicions of it being diseased at one time, but stated that I hadn't noticed anything lately. We opened the hive, and it wasn't long till Mr. McEvoy said: "Oh, yes, Mr. Chalmers, the disease is here," at the same time pointing it out.

"Now for the opposite," as Mr. Alpaugh puts it. In the year 1907 Mr. Alpaugh was inspector for this district. I applied for his services, and my request was granted and attended to, and I say this, that when Mr. Alpaugh was inspecting this locality he was both diligent and careful in his searching for foul brood, but I baffled him in my apiary. I told him before we commenced to examine any that there were five diseased colonies in the yard, and some of them not very bad. So we went at it and opened them promiscuously, sometimes opening a healthy colony and sometimes a diseased one. After going over one of the diseased ones seemingly minutely, and was about to close it up, I said, "You better look a little closer; the disease is there," and going over the combs the second time, he managed to discover its

presence.

"Oh!"

Come, now, keep quiet, Mac; you know what I said to you before.

"Can't we help Alpaugh up?"

No, no, Byer; hands off!

Come, Mac, I do wish you would keep quiet until we are through! I see you twisting and wriggling, which is one of your peculiarities when you smile audibly, but don't have me call you to order again, please."

Mr. Alpaugh questions the readers of the C.B.J. in these words: "But if a .22 rifle will do the work of a cannon, why fire those big guns of McEvoy's, which take so much ammunition to load them?"

It will now be up against Mr. Alpaugh to answer that question himself, but I would advise him to have the idea discharged at once of defending his two-day system with a rifle of only .22 calibre against a cannon, for when one of those big guns of that Dreadnaught of the four-day system replies, it is with decision. It is true that they require a good deal of ammunition to load them, but what of that, for when properly manned, and the officer in charge discharges his duty with precision in discharging a charge discharged at the two-day system, they have a telling effect.

In bowing myself out, I might just explain that, like our Biblical ancestor whose name I bear, I have chosen a few pebbles from the brook of "Chalmers' Observations," and I trust laid this Coliath of the two-day system low.

In conclusion, I would just like to ask why it is that useful men are so often abused, as is exemplified in friend McEvoy's case. But such has been man's record, seemingly, for bygone generations. You all know that the best Friend of mankind was "despised and rejected of men." It is nothing short of a heathenish trait, and perhaps my readers noticed by reports of the Laymen's Missionary Conference recently held in To-

ronto that one gentleman, referring to the heathen in his speech, said that "there are natural-born heathen, and there are self-made heathen." God forbid that any of us should be of the latter class.

If you turn up page 138, April C.B.J., you will find the report of a Norfolk bee-keepers' convention. Near the bottom of first column you will notice that it was moved by R. F. Holtermann, of Brantford, and duly seconded, that "it is the wish of the Norfolk Association that the Ontario Government send to the German Government for the colored or lithographed pamphlets describing foul brood, and the same be given to inspectors for distribution."

What do you think of that, Mr. Hodgetts?

"Well, I hardly know what to think of such a proposition, but would like to hear whether you view it favorably or not."

View it favorably? Well, I just think that a man who would make such a proposition as Holtermann made at that convention must belong to the headless group of inspectors. My proposition would be that as soon as the several inspectors run up against a case of foul brood, let them cut out a piece of comb containing the disease and carry that with them for an object-lesson to those who have not foul brood in their apiary. I felt the need of this very much last fall when in the township of Stephen, county of Huron, and resolved that if I should be inspector another year that I would carry out that idea. If you will consider the source of the proposition, you need not be surprised at such a foreign idea originating in a foreign mind. But we all have our faults, you know, and might well say with Bobby Burns—

"O wad some power the giftie gie us
To see oursel's as ithers see us."

[We cannot agree with you here, Mr. Chalmers. If the Germans have anything to teach us, why not let us have it? By all means let us have the litho-

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Poole, Ont.

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EARLY

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graphs. If they are of value, we are benefited to the extent of their value. If not, no harm is done.—Ed.]

Proposition.—I notice, Mr. Editor, in your April editorial, you feel sure that the bee-keepers of the Province will not fail to signalize Mr. McEvoy's retirement from the foul brood inspectorship without some fitting testimonial. I am right with you, and would propose that the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture be petitioned to appoint Mr. McEvoy general inspector for the Province of Ontario, and that Mr. F. A. Gemmill be appointed deputy. The names of those two gentlemen should never be allowed, while they live, to be severed from connection with any move in the combatting of foul brood. All bee-keepers already know Mr. McEvoy's history, as far as the successful curing of this malady is concerned, and I know for a fact that Mr. Gemmill was the prime mover in asking for legislation on this pest. Were it not for those two men, let me ask, how many of us would be in the bee business to-day? More than that, there would be no necessity for inspectors. Were those men appointed as above proposed they could be called upon for consultation in urgent cases, and should be well paid for their services.

Poole, Ont. DAVID CHALMERS.

[Mr. McEvoy and Mr. Gemmill have done great service to the bee-keeping industry, but we do not think either of them would consent to accept what would practically be a pension from the Ontario Government. Furthermore, it is inconceivable that your suggestion would be adopted by the Government. Impracticable suggestions of this kind are useless. When we suggested a testimonial we had something entirely different in view.—Ed.]

EARLY INSPECTION

During the last two weeks of April I went over what I considered the foul brood sections of my territory. I did no inspecting of live hives, except where I

found any very weak and likely to be robbed out and containing foul brood. I ordered them destroyed at once. I found a number of very bad cases of dead hives (containing foul brood and honey), sitting just as they died, which would surely have been robbed out as soon as the weather got warm. I think this early inspecting prevented the spread of the disease.

On page 144, C.B.J., Mr. D. Chalmers asks why I do not use old Sol to warm the water for the bees. I might just say that the days the water needs most to be warmed the sun does not shine, but the lamp does. See?

J. ALPAUGH.

Fergus, Ont.

[You did a very sensible thing in doing as you did, Mr. Alpaugh. It was a wise and far-sighted precaution. What you did shows that bees with foul brood do require attention early in the spring. Your forethought will doubtless save a lot of damage. Of course, where foul brood is not known to exist, it would be unwise to tear hives to pieces looking for it in early spring. But where it is known to exist it ought to be dealt with early. Those dead hives which you found would have been a great menace if they had been neglected. This, like most other matters, requires intelligent discrimination, and where this is used inspection work would progress smoothly.—Ed.]

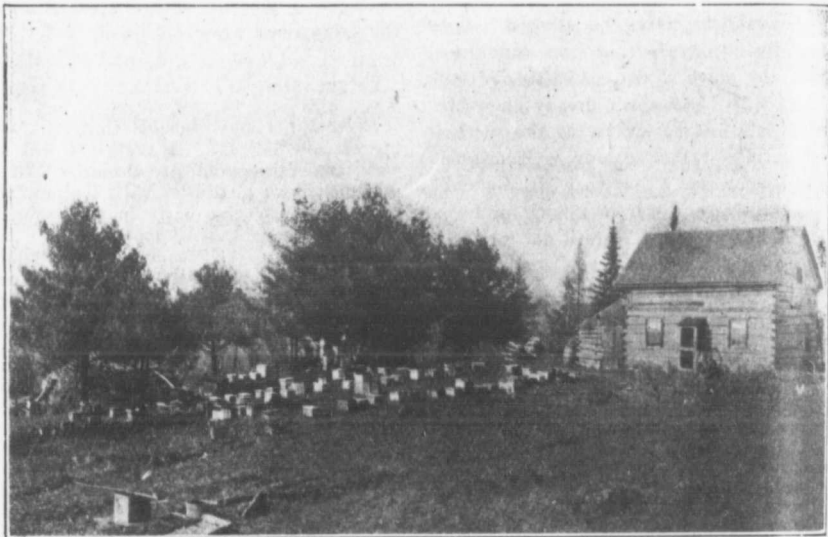
WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The bee-man in a neighboring village strives to teach a lesson from his bees. He paints his hives to look like dwelling-houses. One is mottoed "We love our queen"; a second "Free Trade"; a third "Pure Honey"; and yet a fourth "The home of industry." Good titles, forsooth; but, alas! "We love our queen" had no queen, "Pure Honey" was empty, "The home of industry" was being robbed by its neighbors, and—worst of all—"Free Trade" was rotten—it had been wiped out by foul brood! What is there in a name?—J. Smallwood, in British Bee Journal.

SPRING REPORTS

While reading over the April number of the C.B.J. I thought I would write you re condition of bees. Seventy placed in the cellar came out sixty-nine. One of them left the hive the day taken out, April 15th (they were queenless, I expect); one killed its queen the same day, and two died in winter and two since; the balance are about the same as when put away, but the cold spring has kept them in the hive most of the time. Half

sell at), we get back this answer: "We find that there is quite a large crop of honey in the country. We can get it at so-and-so delivered here." Is this the way they find out just how much honey is for sale by bee-keepers? They always ask how much comb and extracted I have for sale. I believe it would help all of us if we would all send word to such enquiries that we would be pleased to fill orders at so much. The bluff is used at all times, and, I suppose, often works. It is my business as to how much



A BACKWOODS BEE-YARD—CHAS. BLAKE, DONALDSON, ONT.

of them are ready for the flow from willow, as they had young queens late last fall. This is a very rough country, as you will see by the photograph, which was taken last fall while bush fires were hot all around. Although the crops were all off the land, the very dry time made a man think more of safety than looks, so yard was not dressed up when this picture was taken.

Every season we get enquiries about honey from a Montreal firm, and on quoting the market price (that is what I

honey I have, so long as I fill orders as agreed. The crop report to O.B.K.A. is a different thing, and I believe the best thing we have. It has made cash for me, I know.

Donaldson, Ont. CHAS. BLAKE.

Bees are gathering honey for first time from black currants. First pollen came March 14th; apple bloom coming now. Good prospects for honey this year.

Eburne, Ont. HENRY KACER.

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Lindsay, Ont.

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C.B.J., "Gleanings
the "Review."

Norgate, Man.

Reports on how the bees have wintered will now be looked for. In this district every bee-keeper has a pleasant smile, and when asked how the bees have wintered, the answer invariably is, "Never did better." So far not more than two per cent. are dead, and those principally from being short of stores. Two in my cellar seemed to have started brood-rearing and cleaned out everything and showed signs of dysentery. Most of the colonies came out apparently as heavy as when put away on Nov. 3rd. They were taken out of winter quarters April 5th and 6th. This season is very late, no flowers showing, yet I used to consider April 14th late for bees to begin getting pollen, but this is the 16th, and very little signs of vegetation. The clover is in good shape, and if we only get the suitable weather at the proper time we may get a crop.

I am very much interested in Mr. Adams' queen-rearing instructions in the C.B.J.; they are certainly given with care. In your March edition they stopped, but no doubt your readers will find them continued in this month's edition.

JAS. STORER.

Lindsay, Ont.

Last fall, about the first of November, I placed 40 colonies of bees in a stone cellar under my workshop, and kept the temperature between 40° and 50°. I took them out on Good Friday, April 9th, and found them all alive and in fairly good condition. I live close to the foot of the Riding Mountain, on the east side. We have plenty of willow for pollen just as soon as the bees can fly, and an unlimited supply of goldenrod and wild sunflower during August. I think bee-keeping can be made a success here in Manitoba. I kept bees in the county of Huron over thirty years ago, when they were handled in any old way, but now I am trying to do the work up-to-date, thanks to the C.B.J., "Gleanings in Bee Culture" and the "Review."

Norgate, Man.

WM. McLEOD.

I enclose one dollar to apply on subscription to C.B.J., which, I am pleased to note, is becoming a valuable journal. I purchased four colonies of bees in May, 1908, which cost me \$32.00 at the railway station, which is quite cheap for bees in Manitoba, where the general price asked is from \$8.50 to \$10.00 per hive. The four colonies were increased to eleven good colonies, and left very heavy in stores, after taking about 25 pounds of comb honey from them. Most of the combs were built from starters, as only one pound of foundation was used. The season was very favorable. As I had not a good cellar in which to winter them, a fellow-bee-keeper very kindly consented to my putting my bees in his cellar along with his 32 colonies. On Nov. 5th those eleven colonies were loaded into a wagon upon some hay and hauled five miles, over a road part of which was very rough, and put into the cellar. Talk about shaking energy into bees! Those bees had too much energy, and would not remain quiet until after Nov. 19th, when they were taken out of the cellar and permitted to have a flight in the warm sunshine and to see for themselves that there were no flowers from which they could obtain nectar. After this they remained quiet. Temperature of cellar was kept between 38° and 40° Fah., and, with the exception of a few weak colonies and one which died early in winter, queenless, they all wintered good and were taken from the cellar on April 19. But, unfortunately, since that date we have had very cold and stormy weather most of the time, and at this writing (April 30th) it is more like midwinter than spring. Willows have scarcely made any perceptible growth yet.

J. H. STONEMAN.

Kelwood, Man.

Bees wintered very fair; about four to the hundred lost. Spring very backward and cold; no pollen-gathering yet.

JOHN BAILEY, SR.

Bracebridge, Ont.

answer: "We large crop of can get it at Is this the much honey They always extracted I t would help send word to ld be pleased The bluff is suppose, often to how much



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fill orders as O.B.K.A. is lieve the best e cash for me,

S. BLAKE.

for first time t pollen came coming now. this year.

Y KACER.

Not a pleasant time for our bees up till now; not one good bee day yet. Yesterday was at last warm enough, but high winds made work difficult for them. They are at work on willow now. We have any amount near; about 15 different varieties, some of them extra good nectar-producers. Their blossom time extends over several weeks and reaches far into fruit blossom time. My winter loss was seven colonies out of 120, wintered outside, packed in chaff; 50 cellar-wintered colonies all in good shape. I found a good deal of dysentery in outside-wintered colonies, and, of course, some weak ones are the result, but on the average I am well satisfied with the wintering, as, owing to restlessness during the mild winter weather, we expected a bigger loss. We just need good weather now; the prospect is good otherwise—any amount of clover, alsike and white. Hoping for good success for all our Canadian bee-keeping brethren.

JACOB HABERER.

Zurich, Ont.

So many things have been said pro and con re wintering bees, both in the cellar and out-of-doors, through the columns of the various bee journals—and good things, too—that I venture to give my report for the past winter. After arriving back from the Convention, last November, I put the little fellows into a small room in the basement of a big house, with cement floor and walls; with wooden covers removed, propolis quilt on, and the hive bodies raised at front end with wedges about one inch from bottom-board; a temperature ranging from 28° to 55°. Don't lose your breath, sir, when I tell you that our bees never came out in better condition before. They were set out on the 17th of April—a nice, fine day, the only one we have had so far since then. The April number of C.B.J. just received, and I assure you it is appreciated by your humble servant.

L'Original, Ont.

W. J. BROWN.

Bees have wintered good here. I put away last fall 146 colonies—99 colonies in the cellar, 45 packed on summer stands and two colonies in a pit (these two were an experiment). I was surprised when I took them out to find they were in excellent condition and had used very little stores. I had no loss in colonies, every one coming through O.K. This has been the hardest spring I ever saw for bees to build up; too much cold. Last night (April 27th) it made three-quarters of an inch of ice in a water pail outside.

Prospects for clover are fairly good. The white clover is making a very good showing. The Canadian Bee Journal is improving rapidly. May the day not be far off when it will surpass all others.

CHRIS. GRIMOLDBY.

Owen Sound, Ont.

[Thanks, good friend. Yours is a model report.—Ed.]

How about this for a cold, late spring? Think it holds the record. Just uncellared our last lot of bees, May 5th. They had been in the cellar since Nov. 7th—only two days less than the half-year. First pollen here May 6th. Our bees came out in pretty fair shape, but, of course, owing to the spring, are away behind as regards brood-rearing; could not even get a chance to work on artificial pollen. I said our bees are in fair condition, but after reading a letter just received from J. L. Byer, describing the strength of some of his big barns, equal to 13 Langstroth frames packed solid full, and drones flying at the 8th of May, I began to think ours are weak. However, that is the penalty we pay for no fall flow, which usually closes from the 20th to the 25th July, so that it is impossible to have the amount of bees for wintering which our friends in the buckwheat regions have. I might say that, although there is a considerable amount of buckwheat sown, yet in the past ten years I have only seen buckwheat honey in our hives once. However, I think we make

up for it in the crop, for while part of our Pro years the fields and little or no flow appears to amount of bloom tions here this the alsike has b winter killed, for spots where the O.K. Of course, some, also, by h a good share left coming up very th at by the 1st ble to report a f

Renfrew, Ont.

I put my bees 8th, and I put t only lost one hi two frames of hone were at the other the other hives are hives were on an lighter than when cellar. I have a fu obtained off one hives on top of ea n. I raised one bottom-board one block under each c with a two-inch hol window facing the ure was 45°. The up to 50°, yet the b ere very few dead out 22 hives in ad had a lot of trou g. Weather was ad the drought wa ripened the clover ave, but I took c attracted honey, all es a good supply. ut in the cellar. So er pound. I have th all them, the "com miles west of Ott

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MIMOLDBY.

up for it in the sureness of our clover
crop, for while apiarists in the western
part of our Province tell us that some
years the fields will be white with bloom,
and little or no honey, here the honey
flow appears to be gauged only by the
amount of bloom. As to clover condi-
tions here this spring, a great deal of
the alsike has been killed, and mostly
winter killed, for near the fences, and in
spots where the snow lay late, it is all
O.K. Of course, the spring damaged it
some, also, by heaving. Still, there is
a good share left, and white clover is
coming up very thick. We are in hopes
that by the 1st of August we will be
able to report a fair crop.

A. A. FERRIER.

Renfrew, Ont.

I put my bees in the cellar on Nov.
8th, and I put them out on May 4th.
I only lost one hive out of 32. It had
no frames of honey at one side; the bees
were at the other side, all dead. All
the other hives are in good condition. The
hives were on an average 12¾ pounds
lighter than when I put them in the
cellar. I have a furnace in the cellar. I
obtained off one corner and piled the
hives on top of each other, with covers
on. I raised one end of hive off the
bottom-board one inch, with an inch
block under each corner. I had a pipe
with a two-inch hole in it put through a
window facing the north. The tempera-
ture was 45°. The end of April it went
up to 50°, yet the bees were quiet. There
were very few dead bees on the floor. I
put out 22 hives in the spring of 1908,
and had a lot of trouble with bees swarm-
ing. Weather was very warm and dry,
and the drought was so great here that
it ripened the clover long before it should
have, but I took off 2,000 pounds of
extracted honey, all clover, and left the
bees a good supply. I had 32 hives to
put in the cellar. Sold honey at 14 cents
per pound. I have the black, or, as some
call them, the "common" bees. I live
15 miles west of Ottawa. This is a very

backward spring here; hardly any growth
yet, and the weather cold and windy.
It looks as if there will be lots of clover.

W. J. McCORD.

Marchhurst, Ont.

I am very pleased at your able manner
in conducting a bee journal. It deals
with bees, and nothing more. The ar-
ticles on foul brood are such as should
be preserved by every one. I have never
seen foul brood, and so it is certainly a
lesson in advance for me. I am pleased
to find that every hive I put away has
come out in good condition; two were
weak, but will be all right. My method
is somewhat the same as suggested by
C.B.J. I placed them all in one long
row, two inches between hives, and six
inches between hive and outside covering.
I filled the vacant space solid with planer
shavings. I left all the openings to full
extent, and only placed a board to break
wind. Did I do right?

PRIVATE.

[Your plan is O.K. That six inches of
shavings did the trick. We believe there
is nothing better than planer shavings
to winter with. They are non-conductors
of heat, while at the same time allowing
air and moisture to pass through. Hives
in this packing come out dry as a bone.
Thanks for your appreciation of C.B.J.
—Ed.]

Bees wintered fairly well in this dis-
trict. I have lost one out of 100; others
much the same. Weather very bad for
building up; no pollen coming in so far.
Trust it will soon take a change.

JAMES MARTIN.

Hillsdale, Ont.

LOW TEMPERATURE

I have learned a few things about cel-
lar wintering from my friend, J. F. Dav-
idson, of Unionville, which may be
useful to some bee-keepers, and, at the
risk of making friend Davidson an enemy
for life, I mention them, for Mr. David-
son has a strong dislike to seeing his
name in print.

In the winter of 1905 Mr. Davidson told me that he kept his bee cellar at a very low temperature—so low that I was surprised, and asked him to note the temperature and let me know. On March 28th, 1905, he wrote: "During the winter the thermometer did not vary much. It even went as low as 32°; usually about 36°; never saw it up to 40°. When taken out the bees flew clean and sharp. There was not the slightest appearance of dysentery. It would not have hurt them, apparently, to have been left in the cellar a month longer. I could not wish for them to have wintered better."

I was curious to know if Mr. Davidson was still of the same opinion, and wrote him again lately, and this is an extract from a letter of April 5th: "Since the mild weather commenced the bees are getting restless. Till then quietness reigned, and you would scarcely know that bees were in the cellar when going down. I keep the temperature as near freezing as I can all winter. The bees, as a rule, consume very little honey. I have loose bottom-boards, prop the hives up in front 1½ to 2 inches, if the hives have honey-boards (mine have three-inch holes, which I leave open). Those honey quilts I loosen and turn one corner for ventilation. This year I have not seen one spot on the hives; nearly all of the bottom-boards are as clean of bees as when put in the cellar."

Later I have word from Mr. Davidson that he took the last of his hives out April 14th, all in splendid condition, looking stronger, if possible, than when put in. Most of the hives had the cluster down to the bottom-boards, and the bees looked as if they could stay in the cellar safely for another month; not a trace of dysentery. I quite agree with Mr. Davidson as to low temperature, but have never tried it quite so low. I find my bees comfortable at 40°.

J. D. EVANS.

Islington, Ont.

TREE PLANTING FOR BEE PASTURE

M. L. Dupuis, of Montreal (Canada), has an article in "L'Apiculture Nouvelle" on this subject. He points out that it is pollen that the bees require in the early spring for brood-rearing, and the visit for the purpose of collecting it willows, elms, poplars, alders, aspens, and birch trees. Later there are the fruit trees and ornamental trees, such as chestnuts, acacias, and limes. He says in European countries which he has visited he noticed bee-keepers and others made a practice of planting in hedges and along the roads a large number of lime trees for ornament. The reason given for this was that the lime, which yields both pollen and nectar, blossoms in July, sometimes later, and its pollen comes in time so that bees can make their second provision, which is intended for the early brood in spring. The American lime renders the same service to bees as the European. The only difference is in the color of the honey, the American being of a reddish color, while the European is white with a very fine aroma. For this reason he recommends the planting of European lime trees along the Canadian roads. He also recommends the Spanish chestnut and acacia as equally valuable both for pollen and nectar, and says they should also be extensively planted. *British Bee Journal.*

REGRETS AND BEST WISHES

I was sorry to learn through the *Journal* that Mr. McEvoy has retired from inspection work, as I believe he is the best man in Ontario, or ever was in Ontario up to the present time, on the treatment of foul brood. I hope he will think the matter over and come back into the ranks for 1910. I wish Mr. McEvoy long life and prosperity. He has been a blessing to many a man, the words included.

JOHN McEWEN

Clandeboye, Ont.

May, 1909

BAD WINTER

Mr. Leon C. Wheeler
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Dr. C. C. Miller

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(page 92), where

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BEE PASTURE

BAD WINTERING IN PACKING CASES

Mr. Leon C. Wheeler, of Michigan, Gives His Experience

Dr. C. C. Miller in the April number (page 125), makes a little correction on one of my illustrations in the article (page 92), where I spoke of the difference in the time of setting out of the colonies in his location and mine. Your correction is accepted, Doctor, but as to the blooming of the soft maples, they are scarce an article in this neighborhood go by.

And now I shall have to admit that, though part of the bees I am working wintered in the cellar, I have never entered by own there. I wintered 62 colonies in chaff hives, etc., this winter. Well, now, I didn't intend when I started this to write more than a line or so, but I must tell you my experience this winter.

Twenty-eight colonies were wintered in chaff hives, with absorbant cushions; no tight-sealed covers for me, E. R. Root's experiences notwithstanding. Of these twenty-eight colonies, every one is alive this spring. One, however, the mice got to and gave them such a bad racket that there are only bees enough to cover the frame or a little more. Of the rest only all cover from seven to ten frames (April 26).

Two colonies wintered in a large double-ended hive I was experimenting with last summer died. This hive did not have chaff packing. Thirty-two colonies in single-walled hives were wintered as follows:

I took enough lumber and made a box three feet wide; covered this with boards two inches deep, having first put a layer of building paper next the boards. The front, back and ends were next put on, lined on the inside with paper, and leaving a space of four or five inches between the sides and the hives, which were set on the straw, in the bottom. Entrances were cut in the front of each

hive, about three inches from the bottom. These entrances were made $\frac{3}{8} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ " and there, I believe, is where I made a mistake, for I believe they were too small. The front side was made six inches higher than the back, and a cover was built over all and covered with roofing. These were well packed in straw, chaff, etc., and when spring came, and I saw the way those bees came tumbling out of those hives every warm day, I commenced to make my plans to drop the more troublesome chaff hive entirely and winter all my bees in these "tenement hives," as I call them. I decided to leave them in the packing till they were nearly ready for the honey flow, as they would probably do so much better with the protection. After a while I began to notice they were not making so much of a showing as my chaff hives, but laid it to the heavier packing, and that the sun therefore did not affect them so much. Lately they were so noticeably quiet I commenced to smell a rat, so I made an examination. What was my surprise and disappointment to discover several colonies dead entirely and the others rapidly running down. All had plenty of honey; straw, packing, etc., was dry and bright; their stores were fine sealed combs of white honey, and yet nearly every colony showed bad signs of dysentery. Thinking the entrances might have been clogged, I examined them, but found them all open. I shall probably be able to save about half of them.

I notice I didn't mention it, but, of course, entrances were bridged. Now, if some of our friends who winter out-of-doors can tell me wherein I made my mistake, I shall be very thankful.

The only place I can see where they did not have practically the same conditions as the chaff hives was the small entrances. Was this the trouble? I can hardly see any reason why it should be.

LEON C. WHEELER.

Barryton, Mich.

[Your case, Mr. Wheeler, is a very

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McEWEN

puzzling one. Your entrances were a little on the small side, but they were large enough to give the bees plenty of air, and should not be the cause of your trouble. What kind of covers did you have on these hives? Were they sealed? Hives packed in this manner should have unsealed covers to allow the damp air to pass up into the packing. Where dysentery is found, the trouble can be traced to two causes—dampness or poor quality of food. Honey is not always the best thing to winter upon. This statement does appear to be absurd, but many have found it to be the case. Bees packed as yours were ought to have a honey-board on top. We would by no means put a cushion on. We think also that your packing cases would have been better if you had not put the building paper inside. There was possibly not enough circulation of air. It will be very interesting to get Dr. Miller's opinion on this.—Ed.]

A BEE-SPACE ABOVE OR BELOW?

Mr. Deadman's article re bee-space in hives prompts me to say there are some very good reasons why a beginner should thoroughly study every little detail of a hive before he makes any quantity or orders any made. Now a bee-space is only the small matter of one-quarter inch, but if it is allowed in a wrong place in a hive it is going to be an everlasting nuisance. Mr. Hurley says that, while he likes a bee-space below the frames, he also wants a bee-space above the frames. Now, my experience tells me they must not be both above and below the frames with my system of management. My supers and hives are alike, with the exception of half-depth supers, but they do not alter the matter any. Suppose I have a bee-space above the frames of my hive body and below the frames of my super as well. That leaves a space of half an inch, and when those bodies are separated there is going to be a growth of comb in that double bee-space to be broken loose. I, like Mr. Deadman, want the space below the frames for the same reasons he mentions, and I certainly do not have the trouble with wood-bound

excluders which our Editor mentions. I bind my excluders myself, and there is nothing frail about them.

My bees have wintered very well, with the exception of three. The mice got into the packing case of these and worked the chaff down and closed the entrance. Had any one tried a collapsible case, with separate cushions attached to ends and sides, so that when the case is put together the cushions touch the sides and ends of hives? The lid should also have packing material attached. This would save a dirty mess in the spring when unpacking, and the mice would not be apt to bother the cushions as they do the loose packing. It would also save getting fresh packing every fall.

I am building a two-storey honey house and am just preparing to put in a cement floor. I thought first of elevating my extractor on a platform high enough to enable me to put a pail under the spout. I have decided since, however, to anchor my extractor flat on to the cement floor by iron rods, and have a square hole made in the floor large enough to take a pail. Has the Editor any suggestions to make on this arrangement?

H. A. SMITH.

Palermo, Ont.

[Glad to hear from you, Mr. Smith. Mr. Deadman will no doubt appreciate your opinion very much. As he expects us to offer an opinion on the matter, I agree with Mr. Deadman on this discussion, we will say nothing more. Wood-bound excluders, when prepared by yourself, may be very different to those we have had experience with. A wood-bound excluder is all right if it will stay wood-bound—there's the rub! Your idea of a collapsible winter case, with special prepared and adjusted cushions, is a very novel one, but we think it would be somewhat impracticable. There are many collapsible winter cases, minus the cushions. We use winter cases, with fine shaving for packing, and have never been troubled with mice. We commend your arrangement re extractor. We have tried it elevated and on the level. We find a hole for the pail the best arrangement. The extractor is much more easily worked under this arrangement.—Ed.]

MISTAKES FOUL I

(By

In the C.B.J. Byer says that a swarm issuing carries the disease nearly always with a greatly mistaken name. I know for the first and second brood colonies honey with the same reasons for cleansing process. The hives for first and second brood colonies should be taken away the starters and foundation.

After a colony becomes weaker store more honey as soon as the first swarm is taken down more of the honey, and a second swarm is raised honey away. The first swarm did, but

diseased cells with Mr. Byer says that we should not re-treat all treatment except under special conditions. I do not agree with Mr. Byer. Many colonies are found to be close of the hives do not do to go into the hives not cured, would not be right in shaking the bees out of stores in October months in every case and they always come in the very best condition in every case, and no more is treated as many do. I have done all as I have done. Mr. Byer and Mr. McEwen

MISTAKES MADE IN TREATING FOUL BROOD APIARIES

(By Wm. McEwry)

In the C.B.J. for April (page 140), Mr. Byer says that I taught that "a first swarm issuing during a honey flow rarely carries the disease, while a second swarm nearly always will be foul." Mr. Byer is greatly mistaken, and has misunderstood me. I know for a positive fact that both first and second swarms issuing from foul brood colonies always carry diseased honey with them, and this was one of my reasons for going in for a thorough cleansing process, shaking the bees on foundation starters and leaving them in the hives for four full days, and then taking away the little combs made out of the starters and giving full sheets of foundation.

After a colony casts a first swarm it becomes weaker in bees, and then they store more honey in the brood-nest, and as soon as the foul brood matter dries down more of these cells will be filled with honey, and when the colony casts a second swarm the bees carry more diseased honey away with them than the first swarm did, because they have more diseased cells with honey in to fill up on.

Mr. Byer says that it is his opinion that we should not recommend any kind of fall treatment except under very exceptional conditions. On this point I cannot agree with Mr. Byer, because where many colonies are found to be diseased at the close of the honey season it would not do to go into winter with such colonies not cured, and to destroy these would not be right. My fall method of shaking the bees on sound, solid, sealed stores in October makes sure and perfect cures in every case when properly done, and they always come into spring in the very best condition. I never failed in any case, and no man in the world ever treated as many diseased colonies in the fall as I have done with sound and solid sealed stores. Mr. Gemmill, Mr. Chalors and Mr. McEwen, three of our best

bee-keepers, and men whose word is just as good as their bond, all say that my fall treatment with solid, sealed stores makes sure cures.

Mr. McEwen fits up for fall curing by feeding up sound colonies in August or early in September, so as to have combs in October to give to the bees he starves the diseased honey clean out of. He then gives a comb with plenty of pollen in, so that these treated colonies can brood up well in early spring. This is the same as my plan in every respect, with the exception of one thing: Mr. McEwen finds it easier to starve the diseased honey clean out of the bees than to get his combs sealed right down to the bottom. I find it an easy thing to feed in August until the bees seal every cell in the outside combs right down to the bottom bar of the frames, and when this is done, take these outside combs of solid, sealed stores and during an evening in October shake the bees off the diseased combs and place six of these all-sealed combs in the hive, and with division-boards crowd the bees up among these solid sealed combs. This will not only make perfect cures in every case, but it will put the bees into the best condition to winter well of any plan ever tried. Feeding bees up on foundation in October is too costly, and it sends the colonies into winter short of pollen, and for the want of it these colonies fall behind at breeding in early spring.

Mr. Alpaugh says that Mr. Jones, who lives a short distance out of Port Elgin, shook a number of colonies on starters in 1906, and he (Mr. Alpaugh) found them cured in 1907 when he examined them. Where colonies have little or no unsealed honey in the brood-nest when the bees are shaken off the combs, and honey is coming in slowly, it takes the bees longer to make the foundation starters into comb, and by the time the bees have the starters made into combs they have no diseased honey left to store in them. But, given a number of badly-

H. A. SMITH

you, Mr. Smith, I doubt appreciate your doubt. As he expected on the matter at the close say nothing no when prepared to differ to the with. A wood if it will st rub! Your id se, with special ashions, is a ve it would be so are are many o nus the cushion ith fine shavin ver been troubl nd your arrang ave tried it be el. We find est arrangeme ore easily work -Ed.]

diseased colonies, with a lot of unsealed honey stored in the brood-nest, the bees will rush into the unsealed honey and take all the honey they can hold. When they are being shaken off the combs, and this done during a big honey flow, when the bees are very fat, they will make the starters into comb fast enough for the bees to store nearly all the diseased honey they took out of the old combs, and after that foul brood will break out in every one of these with a vengeance if these little combs are not taken out after they have been four full days in the hive and foundation given.

Mr. Alpaugh says that if Mr. J. B. Hall, himself and others can cure by one shake, why cannot others. Oh, my, please hold your horses, Mr. Alpaugh, until I explain how I got Mr. Hall's apiary cured by one shake, as it was more by the "how" I got the cure done than by the "one shake." If Mr. Hall's colonies had been shaken on starters and left to put all their first week's work on the starters, foul brood would have broken out again in all his colonies that had been badly affected with the disease.

Mr. J. B. Hall wrote to me to come up and inspect one of his apiaries in the spring of 1898. I went up, and he drove me out some seven miles to the diseased apiary, and after I examined every colony I asked Mr. Hall if he was going to run any of his apiaries for comb honey. He said he was—the home apiary. I asked why not run this one for comb honey, and cure it with one shake, instead of having to go out seven miles and shake twice. Mr. Hall quickly agreed to this. The bees were to be shaken into the hives with only half an inch of foundation starters, so as not to induce the bees to put any work on the starters for some time, but to go at once into the sections, which were to be put right on over queen-excluders just as soon as the bees were shaken off the old combs. The sections being full of foundation, the bees went at once into the sections, drew out

the foundation in them, and stored all the honey in the sections that they took with them from the old combs, and never put any of it in the brood chamber.

The bees rushed business in the sections, and gave Mr. Hall an average of 144 sections of nice comb honey per colony; made a perfect cure of every colony, and when the season closed every colony had abundance of winter stores. This one-shake business worked so well by getting all the honey taken by the bees out of the old combs sent into the sections that I thought I could help a certain old gentleman out of his difficulties and lessen his work for him by getting him to treat 62 colonies in the same manner and secure his crates full of sections. I warned this man that no more than half an inch of foundation was to be put on the frames, and that he was to be sure and fill every section full of foundation, so that it came down to the bottom of the section, in order that the bees could climb up the foundation at once and draw it out and store the honey that they took out of the old combs. This man unfortunately put only a little piece of foundation in the top of the sections, and instead of only putting half an inch of foundation on the frames, he put three inches of foundation on every frame. In September, when I went to find a fine and profitable cure made, I was astonished to find all the sections of comb honey a lot of culls and every one of the 62 colonies in a very bad state with foul brood. The awful mistake that the man made by not going strictly by my orders left the one shake no good and spoiled everything. The bees clustered on the three inches of foundation he gave them, soon drew it out, stored the diseased honey there, and then had it on hand to spoil everything.

Mr. Alpaugh says: "If a .22 rifle will do the work of a cannon, why fire those big guns of McEvoy's, which take so much ammunition to load them?" I have been all through the many parts of

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Woodburn, C

CONVENTION

The annual (Bee-keepers' A Toronto, Novem met in Streetsv ciding on these programme. Se features will be tend to make t best in the his The Provincial Show will be h vember 8-14. I bee-keepers will mind during the k liberally. Th carefully over th useless prizes ar many cases doub petitive honey e worth the effor entries.

One of the mo tivity and develop industry is the in Associations. Mi tion held its spr on Saturday, Ma ance of about 50 throughout. Bees condition, though exceedingly backw ports showed a lo Halton County Saturday, May 15 and an excellent Among the visiting P. W. Hodgetts, Mr. Morley Pettit

the Province where foul brood once raged so badly, and I have had a long experience in treating foul brood apiaries, and I never found an apiary where I could drive the disease out of every colony in the honey season by one shake, or by any short-cuts, save as mentioned above.

WM. McEVOY.

Woodburn, Ont.

CONVENTION AND DISTRICT NOTES

The annual Convention of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association will be held in Toronto, November 10-12. The Executive met in Streetsville on Saturday last, deciding on these dates and outlining the programme. Several new and interesting features will be introduced, which should tend to make the Convention one of the best in the history of the Association. The Provincial Fruit, Flower and Honey Show will be held the same week, November 8-14. It is hoped that Ontario bee-keepers will keep this exhibition in mind during the season and provide for it liberally. The Committee have gone carefully over the prize list, eliminating useless prizes and increasing largely, in many cases doubling, the prizes for competitive honey exhibits, thus making it worth the effort to those who make entries.

One of the most hopeful signs of activity and development in the bee-keeping industry is the increased interest in local Associations. Middlesex County Association held its spring meeting in London on Saturday, May 1st, with an attendance of about 50 and a real lively time throughout. Bees were reported in good condition, though the spring has been exceedingly backward, and wintering reports showed a loss of about 10%.

Halton County met in Streetsville on Saturday, May 15th. A good attendance and an excellent meeting here, also. Among the visiting bee-keepers were Mr. P. W. Hodgetts, Secretary O.B.K.A.; Mr. Morley Pettit, of the Experimental

Apiary, Jordan Harbor; Mr. J. D. Evans, Islington; Mr. Jacob Alpaugh, Bellwood; Mr. J. M. Switzer, Orangeville; Mr. Denis Nolan, Newton Robinson, and Mr. W. J. Craig, Brantford. Mr. Pettit addressed the meeting on keeping the colonies strong throughout the season, outlining a season's management, and animated discussion followed. One of the points emphasized was that of having young, vigorous queens. Mr. Alpaugh gave some valuable hints. Members in a few instances reported heavy losses among cellar-wintered bees from dysentery on account of honey-dew stores. The loss among those wintered outside on similar stores was much less, but the bees have not built up, and lack vitality. Others wintering their bees under better conditions spoke of brooding being behind the usual at this season, owing to the cold, backward spring. As a whole, the bee-keepers were very hopeful of a good season. Clover is in excellent condition.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Couse kindly and hospitably entertained a number of the visitors, adding much to their enjoyment of the meeting.

MIDDLESEX BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

The above Association met at London on Saturday, May 1st, President Geo. Kimball, Reeve of London Township, in the chair.

Very extensive reports were made on "Wintering" and "Spring Conditions." In these reports a very noticeable feature was the success reported by those who fed syrup in the fall for winter stores. On the whole, winter losses were light.

Mr. John McEwen made a very extensive report. He wintered outside, packed on summer stands. He reported 207 colonies living out of 210. Owing to the backward spring, bees were not breeding as well as should be expected. There was, however, an average of three frames of brood to the hive. He protested

against sealed covers for winter. There were lots of covers called sealed, but which were not really moisture-tight. For winter he had an entrance four inches wide, and for spring he contracted the entrance to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in width.

D. Anguish reported 235 colonies out of 240. He had examined some colonies two days previous, and found about four combs of brood. He felt sure the condition of the bees was not equal to that of a year ago. He also opposed the system of wintering with the covers of the hives sealed. It would be better for the moisture to pass up than to have it condense on the sides of the hives and on the combs. If the moisture condensed on the combs the honey would become thin and not be first-class stores. He contracted the entrances of the hive during the spring; it was better to give an entrance too small rather than too large. He did not think, as some did, that it made any difference in what direction the bees faced—that is, north, south, east or west.

W. A. Chrysler examined his out-apiary April 2nd. Bees had been brooding heavily during the winter; the hives were full of bees, and, on an average, three combs of brood. In consequence of the activity of the bees, he found the bees very short of stores, and he had to supply stores to one-half. He considered that in the warmer sections of the Province bees should be well looked after as to stores, or many bees would starve. Mr. Chrysler wintered outside.

Mr. Miller wintered outside, and he preferred having the entrances east and west rather than north and south. Often, during the first flight, bees were inclined to drift, and, if facing north and south, the bees were inclined to drift to the sunny side; these colonies reaped a benefit at the expense of the other colonies. During the summer he did not care which direction the colonies faced.

R. F. Holtermann reported that, out of about 385, he had something in the

neighborhood of 360. He wintered in the cellar, but would now admit that colonies wintered outside, and packed, had the advantage over colonies wintered in the cellar, and standing out in single-walled hives.

A. Dowsell, who is connected with the Mount Elgin Industrial Institute, put 55 colonies away, with 54 left. He wintered in a building, and the bees could fly through the walls. He would prefer wintering in outside cases on the summer stands.

Morley Pettit, Provincial Apiarist, reported the past spring one of the worst for years. He wintered with a smaller winter loss than usual.

Martin Emigh, Treasurer of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association, stated that he did not believe in setting a large number of colonies out at one time. He once had as many as 240 colonies, but, owing to other business, had only some 33 now. These he set out about noon on a favorable day.

Mr. John Newton stated that some had been very emphatic as to the kind of day required, but no one had said how he could obtain such a day. The weather might be all right, and change before the bees had finished a cleansing fly. He had set out about 100 colonies, with a loss of about four.

The News

We would call the attention of readers of The Canadian Bee Journal to our clubbing offer with the "News," Toronto, whereby they can obtain the two papers for \$2.10. The "News" is undoubtedly one of the most influential papers published in Canada, its editorial comment being quoted from one end of Canada to the other. For any one wishing to keep in touch with Canadian affairs there is no better paper than the "News." Sample copies can be obtained by dropping a postcard to this office.

Queen Bees

The Ham & Nott Co., Brantford, Ont., can now supply queens to those desiring same.

SIMCOE COUNTY BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

The spring meeting of the Simcoe County Bee-keepers' Association was held in the town of List, 1909. About 100 members were present. The most interesting address was given by the President of the Association, G. Sibbald, Inspector of the District. A number of topics other than those of the above speakers were discussed at the time. The time was very enjoyable to those present.

The reports on the progress of the season were very favorable, so far as the backward season was concerned. The examination being held, the bees were removed from their hives. The next annual meeting will be held on Saturday, October 17th, 1909.

DENIS

SIDE LIGHT

(Continued from page 189.)
 colored honey to be white honey, in suspicion; they say for glucose, consequently the golden honey call for white honey rather overrated an uncertainty do not really know whether to work for the other at less ground among the found they were a the lower price of they called anything, strictly white—and for it than for the honey that come work—it might be that was sent to food, and you can't land market at all tank honey; it looks

SIMCOE COUNTY BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

The spring meeting of the Simcoe County Bee-keepers' Association was held in the town of Barrie on Saturday, May 1st, 1909. About the usual number of members were present and listened to interesting addresses by Mr. Wm. Couse, President of the O.B.K.A., and Mr. H. G. Sibbald, Inspector of Apiaries for this district. A number of questions and topics other than those touched by the above speakers were freely discussed, and the time was very profitably spent by those present.

The reports on wintering were very favorable, so far as the members could tell, the backward spring preventing much examination being done, some not having removed their bees from the cellar yet.

The next annual meeting will be held on Saturday, October 23rd, 1909.

DENIS NOLAN, Secretary.

SIDE LIGHT ON MARKETING

(Continued from last month, page 155)
 colored honey to a white honey. They see white honey, and they meet it with suspicion; they say that is sugar syrup or glucose, consequently they will pick out the golden honeys. The talk about the call for white honeys, I think, has been rather overdone; I think it has created an uncertainty. The bee-keepers do not really know what to produce—whether to work for the white or to sell the other at less price—but on going around among the bottlers or jobbers I found they were always hollering about the lower price of amber honey—and they called anything amber that was not strictly white—and they paid much less for it than for the white. Now, there is honey that comes from Central New York—it might be called a dark amber—that was sent to me as something very good, and you can't sell it in the Rhode Island market at all; it is a strong and dark honey; it looks good; it is as good

as a good deal of the bottled honey that is put on the market, but if you once get that into the hands of a person who has been having a good honey, even of the same color, you have lost that person's custom forever. The man who will put that into the market is making a great mistake; he had better feed it back to his bees or sell it to a vinegar man. But that honey has a value. I had from the same man some cases of very white honey. It was not to my liking; it was insipid; it lacked flavor and character; so I took some of that light honey and some of the rank honey and blended them in different proportions and tasted them, and finally I took and added a certain amount of honey from apple, and I produced a most exquisite table honey. It went; the people took it and liked it. The secret of blending honey is this: It is like the mixture of French soup—you keep eating and eating, and you say, "What is that taste which is so nice, so good in it?" And you have eaten the soup all up before you have found out. That is the way with a good blended honey. You get a little suggestion of this and that flower, and you keep at it and at it until you are satiated with the honey, and you have not found out what the nice taste is. You can compare it very well with the difference between a nice confection and a peppermint drop.

In marketing honey I think that the color should be the first consideration of the bee-keeper. Here in Toronto white honey seems to have no trouble in selling. With us we find that the golden colored honey is the best shade for the market, and where we can blend a dark and light to bring the color we get what we desire.

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The next thing is the flavor, which I have spoken about. The third is the body. We find that an excessively heavy-bodied honey is not nearly as desirable as the honey which will flow reasonably easy; that is, for extracted honey. The people want a honey that will pour out as a syrup. You take honey that sticks to the knife and you can't get it off—it is gluey in the mouth—you don't get half the flavor of it, and we find by using our very thin honeys we get a better blend than by keeping the honey thick. In other words, the blending is one of the fine arts of the marketing of extracted honey. In blending honeys and in preparing honeys for marketing, straining is one of the most essential things. That dark honey which I referred to came to me in cans. I bought it on a sample. The honeys that came were not up to the sample. I had sold it in lots, the bulk of it, eight and a half tons. The cans came right through and I turned them over to the drug house to which I had sold them. I got a telephone message from them to come in and see it. They had poured some of it from one of the cans into a graduate, and he says, "What do you think of that?" I said, "That is not what I rent to you?" He said, "It certainly is." Full of bees, dirt, wax, pieces of leaves—about everything you could think of. "Well," I said, "how are the rest of them?" "Well," he says, "that is as far as we wanted to go." I expressed my regrets, and I said, "I will take that off your hands as quick as I can get the express man here." I had the honey sent to my place, and every particle had to be strained. The man said he couldn't explain it. I said, "I can, very well." I cut out the bottom of one of the cans and sent it back. That can was eaten through in places by the acid of the honey that had worked on the tin from standing there for a year or two, nobody knows how long. The cans had been emptied of the honey and not scalded

out, and a little settled in the bottom, and gradually the bees got in at it and got stuck in it and died, and the dirt and dust got in, and when they came to pack up the new honey, they just rinsed the cans out, and from the amount of honey in there and the jarring from shipping the cans got loose, consequently when our customer got it there was trouble. It all had to be strained. I took it and strained it through the finest grade of cheesecloth, and I had to heat it up to about 115 or 120 to make ready for straining. With reference to the straining of honey, there is one little thing that may help you. With any large receptacle to strain into I take a hoop that will fit readily over the outside and fasten to that a sheet of one-inch chicken wire mesh, and then throw my strained cloth over that, and you can fill it full and there is no danger of the strained cloth ripping or slipping. That wire cloth will save a great deal of trouble.

I sent a lot of the honey back to him and he said that he was sorry, and sent on something else, and he said it was a right—it would be exactly as the sample and no complaint. It went into the men without my inspection again, because the man is in excellent standing in New York, and I supposed he knew what he was doing. They called me again. There was a glass of honey full of little specks. Evidently that honey had only been strained through an ordinary wire cloth, which let through small particles like bits of bees' legs and particles of wax. That honey had all to go back to my place to be warmed and strained, and the cans cleaned and put back and shipped again. Needless to say, the shipper will have to pay the bill.

When it comes to packages for wholesale sale, cans are the most desirable. If you can get it out, and it is more convenient to handle, and the jobber can get rid of it more readily. Take the drug house I speak of. They bottle

great deal of honey for syrups and of that kind; they in the can. They pound can very get something s they have got to granulates they special effort to to see that the; and that the bees because when the bees and dirt a the bottom, rins old water won't think, are the be throw away or though it is slight side, provided the can is sound. When it comes great trouble is the best honey the sense of being

far made very mu porcelain top an er band. The they can use the erves, and they c the bottle each ti are very prone t peak of cost on ents apiece. Whe most of your hone profits down mate ing to start the same, if you have a trade that is made, adopt som bottle or package ave your own li ese machine-made houses. When I go ent to an expert old him what I h honey and I said, hat bottle; it will ways; it will be ays. I don't wan

great deal of honey for small drug stores for syrups and cough mixtures and things of that kind; they also sell more or less in the can. They can put out a sixty-pound can very readily, but if they have got a 300-pound barrel, they have got to get something special to put it in, and they have got to bother to draw it; if it granulates they have trouble. Make a special effort to have your cans clean, to see that they have not stood open, and that the bees have not got into them, because when that honey gets mixed with bees and dirt and granulates hard on the bottom, rinsing out won't affect it, cold water won't touch it. New cans, I think, are the best, and yet it is folly to throw away or waste a good can, even though it is slightly rusted on the outside, provided the inside is clean and the can is sound.

When it comes to retailing honey our great trouble is the cost of the packages. The best honey bottle we can get, in the sense of being the most saleable, is a jar made very much like a fruit jar, with a porcelain top and screw ring and rubber band. The housewives like them; they can use them for jellies and preserves, and they do not object to buying the bottle each time. With corks they are very prone to leak. Those jars I speak of cost on an average about four cents apiece. When you add that to the cost of your honey, it is cutting your profits down materially; but if you are going to start the trade under your own name, if you have got a little local trade, a trade that is really your personal trade, adopt some particular style of bottle or package and stick to that. Have your own label; get away from these machine-made labels of the supply houses. When I got up my own label I went to an expert advertising artist and told him what I had. I took a jar of honey and I said, "I want a label for that bottle; it will contain golden honey always; it will be that size of jar always. I don't want anything suggestive

of the labels in the market; I want an individual thing." I gave him some suggestions which appealed to me; he went to work, and he has produced a very pretty label. It is distinctive; it is my label. Wherever that is seen everybody who knows me knows that is my honey.

The other part that we have to market is the wax. As to the colors of wax, each bee-keeper says, "I want so much nice colored wax. They want the white wax. I think that the bee press has been more or less responsible for the attitude of bee-keepers towards the colors of their honey and wax. They have tried white and amber and brown and yellow wax, and the bee-keeper gets to work to separate them without studying the market, without seeing what he is up against; he has taken for granted what the bee press is telling him is absolutely correct, that they have made no errors, and if he follows them he is all right. The wax refiners tell me that in the best wax they can buy from the producer they get out nearly ten per cent. of dirt and refuse, and yet you think you have got your wax clean. It is not clean, as a wax bleacher considers it. The man who told me this was handling about 200,000 pounds a year. If you are selling your wax in bulk or to foundation makers, you will find that you can take and blend your wax and get a better average price than if you try to sell it in the separate kinds. The wax buyers and foundation makers will say that is a good yellow wax, and they will allow you so much for it; here is some more that is a little brownish; we can't allow you so much for that. There are always plenty of excuses to "bear" the market when they are buying. If you take and

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run into them a whole lot of wax all of one color they can't cut the price very much on you; they can't make but one cut anyway.

The selling of the honey in itself is difficult. Production we have studied and studied, but selling we are just beginning to consider as a fine art. Salesmen, as a rule, I think, are born, not made. If you find you cannot sell your honey successfully yourselves as individuals, then pay somebody else to sell it for you, and you will find, I think, that many times you will make a great deal more out of it, even after you pay that man his commission, than you will by going it alone. Many of the New York men, I find, are doing that thing. They are turning their honey in through certain individuals and members of their own association, and letting them sell the honey, because they know they are good salesmen, and they are giving them a fair commission. The seller knows the producer, and he knows the producer is going to send just what the seller represents, consequently he does not have to touch it or see it; he simply sells it by sample, and it makes a very good working arrangement; but unfortunately all bee-keepers won't agree to that; they cannot always get together.

The quotations on honey and wax with us in the States are very largely fixed by the jobbers, and they set the price somewhat by the weak men. The weak men in honey production are the same as in any other industry—they are like the weak link in the chain, the rest of which is no stronger than that weak link. The weak man is the man who has got a good crop of honey, but can't wait to realize on it; he must have the cash; he has been putting off his grocer, the horse-shoer and different tradesmen, and saying, "Wait till my honey crop comes on," and he puts the honey out to a commission house with these instructions: "Sell it as quickly as you can, please, even if you have to make a slight concession.

The New York State producers were holding their comb honey at 15 to 15½ cents on board the cars at their nearest freight station. I had in Providence a customer for a carload of honey, and I had about closed the deal. I went around the next morning. He says, "I don't think I will buy; your quotations are too high. I couldn't get any headway, and I began to look around to see what was the matter. The trouble was, that man had lost his market. A man from Boston had walked into Providence and had sold comb honey produced in Central New York to the retail stores in Providence for 14 cents delivered on the floors of their stores. That was a concession of one cent over the New York price. The freight from Central New York points to Boston or to Providence and Worcester averages half a cent a pound for comb honey; cartages will average half a cent the local freight from Boston to Providence will be the same as from Central New York to Boston; there were three cartages and two freights of half a cent apiece; there was two and a half cents off the cost of that honey at 14 cents the commission man's commission was 20 per cent, that is 48-10 cents altogether; the breakages charged back in that case to the producer would bring that honey down so, that if that man when he got through, had nine cents for his honey he was lucky. That fixed the market. Jobbers around there won't touch a particle of honey until that is out of the way. What have the New York men got to do? They have to go somewhere else. They have either got to hold their honey till the market is cleaned up or make a concession. Jobbers are far from reliable sources of in-

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formation for prices. Take the quotations through many of the bee papers. Those men are in the market; they want to buy cheap; they are not necessarily commission houses; they are jobbing houses, a good many of them; they will handle your honey on commission, but they prefer to job it, consequently they are going to be influenced by their point of view. A man cannot serve two masters; he is bound to look out for himself first. There is quite a difference between the golden rule for business and the gilded rule for business; the golden rule is the rule that works both ways; the gilded rule is the rule that works two ways, and my way always. I will close by simply repeating the need of your own name in the market. If you are selling to the retail stores

direct, have your honey as fine as you can, keep it as uniform as you can, and keep your name up where the mention of your name will connect you with a good quality of goods at a good price. In figuring the profits on your business, figure the cost of production as carefully as you can, and do not forget the cost of selling.

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP GROWING
 General N. E. France, of Platteville, Wis., announces that there are now 3,225 members of the National Bee-keepers' Association. This is a splendid announcement, and shows that those behind the National are hustlers. Mr. France reports wintering as having been good, and big prospects for a good honey crop.
FOR SALE—65 colonies Italian Bees Moore's Strain, Langstroth frame; very cheap if sold at once. 1200 Extracting Combs.—Edmund J. Berry, Brome, Que.

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Partial View of Apiary of Geo. Wood, Wesley, Dufferin Co., Ont.



Ye Olde Tyme Hive

“MY son, eat thou honey, because it is good ; and the honey comb, which is sweet to thy taste : Prov. 24: 13.”

Solomon, thousands of years ago, showed wisdom in giving this bit of advice.

As an appetizer, taking the place of butter or used as an adjunct thereto, supplying the demand of the body for sweets, there is nothing which quite equals honey. This is a sweet distilled in nature's laboratory that has never been excelled by the genius of man. He may try to imitate but he cannot impart the aroma, the delicious flavor of the wild wood or the blossoming garden or the scented field. He may distill something from corn that looks like it, but

he cannot fool the bee into thinking it honey. And he can't fool the chemist either, and wherever the pure food law is in force the chemist traps the man who is calling glucose honey. Therefore there is little adulterated honey on the market, but if one wants it in the liquid or extracted form let him buy only from reliable men. And if one wants to be absolutely sure that he is eating the genuine, heaven-distilled and bee-manipulated article let him buy comb honey with the assurance that no man has ever yet been able to imitate the bee by faking the delicate comb which holds it, or the delicious ambrosia that fills it.

Not only is honey appetizing but it is nourishing. It is a real food. It builds wasted tissue. Not only is honey palatable and nutritious, but it is assimilable. It agrees with most people. It is much more easily digested than cane sugar because it needs one less transformation in the stomach. It enters more readily into the circulation and doesn't tax the organs that are overworked in trying to take care of commercial sugars. Kidney diseases are comparatively unknown among persistent users of honey.

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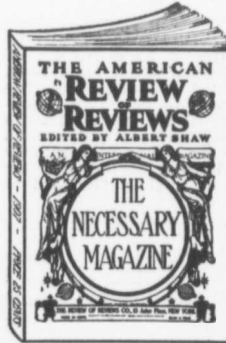
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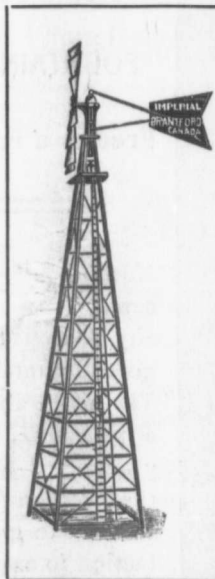


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