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CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

NEW SERIES
VOL. III, No. 3.

BRANTFORD, ONT., SEPT., 1895.

WHOLE No.
367.

YOUR subscription expired with number . A prompt remittance will oblige Goold, Shapley & Muir Co., Lt'd., Brantford, Canada. The September number of the Canadian Bee Journal is 367.

Many are in arrears with their subscription to the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Please remit. We do not like Renewals. to ask but it has to be done.

Those visiting the Toronto, London, Montreal and Ottawa can remit to our representative at the honey exhibit. The editor intends being at Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa. You will find him at the honey department.

* * *

Rev. L. L. Langstroth.

We just manage to crowd in the fact that is expected Father Langstroth intends to be at the convention of the North American Bee-Keeper's Association at Toronto.

* * *

After reading the different articles and hearing the experience of those who have tried combs with wood

Food Base Combs. base, we can see only one reason why the bees object to the comb. That is because such practice interferes with a law in nature the economy of the hive. What is it? we were allowed to speculate about it we would say that it interferes with the transmission of heat through the cluster

and combs. Perhaps it may be practical to use comb with the wood base in the supers and during the honey season. A careful test might be made to advantage along the above line.

* * *

Very soon after the September number of THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL is issued the

North American Bee-Keepers' Convention will be in full swing at Toronto. Our readers

will not forget that the place of meeting is the Normal School Auditorium. The convention begins at 8 p. m. Wednesday Sept. 4th. it will close some time on the 7th. Headquarters will be the Palmer House, corner King & York street. The rates have been reduced from \$2 to \$1.50, if members are willing to double up; single rooms will be \$1.75. As the convention will only last about two days, we think it would be well for us to get all together and have a good visit. But come anyway and bring a little note book with you, about one quarter full of items of information to others and the balance blank for items you will glean of use to yourself. You will find a large proportion of these items will be used between sessions.

* * *

At this date of writing we do not know how many will exhibit at Toronto. A year such as the present must have the effect of curtailing the honey exhibits at Toronto and the London exhibitions. Through the districts from

which the majority of exhibits come there has been but little honey. Only those in vicinity of rich bottom lands, such as we have here on the sides of the Grand river have secured honey sufficient to exhibit. This is unfortunate. Toronto, especially can still boast and in spite of the Chicago World's Fair of having had the finest honey exhibit on the continent, if not in the world. The comb honey shown there will delight the eye of any bee-keeper. This year we are afraid in this respect the exhibit will not be up to the average. The educational exhibit should be of interest to the general public.

* * *

Bee-keepers who are anxious to have legislation to raise the reputation of honey in our own country and Thos. S. Sproule, abroad have watched M. D., M. P. with keen interest the Pure Honey Bill which has been before the House of Commons for two sessions. In connection with this they cannot forget the man who has taken so much trouble in this matter. The position of Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion is vacant. That position as long as the present party system prevails will be filled by a supporter of the party in power. Dr. Sproule is spoken of by *The Farmers' Sun* as a good man for the position. The last Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion was from the province of Quebec. It is not for us to say anything personal about the late minister, but we know that many have the strong conviction that Ontario which is the banner agricultural province at present, should now be represented by a Minister of Agriculture. Bee-keepers will be pleased to see Doctor Sproule in that position. We give in another place a good engraving of the Doctor and a little sketch which we believe is correct.

* * *

In this number of THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL will be found reports of the honey crop and when we add to them many others which we have from different sources we may say that the honey crop throughout the North American continent is poor. In

Scotland too, we understand the crop has been bad and in England nothing extra, if even up to the average. Since penning the editorial in regard to the honey flow in the last number of THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL we have had many rains in this district and in our own apiary the bees have been storing surplus. We have had three swarms in one week and if the flow continues there may be many more within the next week. We know of one patch of buckwheat 17 acres, another 10 acres within easy reach of the bees, how much more there is we know not, but as a rule there is no buckwheat near us. The failure of other crops, with abundant rains now, has caused more buckwheat than usual to be sown. Almost every day or night we are having a shower and the prospects are that through a very large area of country the bees will fill up well for winter and perhaps secure a surplus of buckwheat. This filling up for winter is a very important item, it saves expense and saves bees, many are careless and will not feed their bees, and the result is that they must perish. Again, these rains mean much for the coming year, white and other clover will come up in abundance and we are likely to have an abundance of these important flowers next season. It is more than likely that those who will let their bees slide now and drop money thereby will live to regret it in future seasons. The man who makes money out of anything is not the one who goes out of it when it has touched bottom and gets into it again just as the boom is out. The solid business principle is rather the other way.

In conclusion let us say that all parts of the Dominion are not alike. British Columbia and Manitoba has given a good crop of honey, we also understand that the country between Montreal and Ottawa has done well.

EDITOR CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR.—August C. B. J. is to hand, and I note your allusions to me. Several times you charge me with deliberate lying, e. g. "all of this he knows to be untrue." I have stood a great deal from you and been civil

This I will not stand from you or any other man. I have made no statement at any time that I did not sincerely believe to be true. I demand that you retract these aspersions on my character and apologise for them, or I shall treat you accordingly. The statement that I asked to be made an honorary member of the N. A. B. K. A. is utterly false, and if you have a spark of honor about you, you will publish my indignant denial of it.

WM. F. CLARKE.

Guelph, Aug. 7th, 1895.

[We cheerfully publish the above and in reply would say when a man makes statements for which there is no foundation he surely is doing what we said Mr. Clarke was doing, and we regret to say we cannot be truthful and withdraw our statements. As to the honorary membership and the very unkind statements Mr. Clarke has made about ourselves, although he has been very unkind and judged motives in a groundless and uncharitable way, requiring a good deal of Christian grace to take them in silence, it would undoubtedly have been better to have taken those personal attacks in silence and not manifested the spirit we, for the moment, did when telling that Mr. Clarke asked for honorary membership of the N. A. B. K. A. But this statement we cannot now withdraw, much as we may wish that it had not been published. We were told on the best of authority that Mr. Clarke said in effect that he thought his long services to bee keeping entitled him to honorary membership and he could not well be refused.

[We see in to day's (Aug. 13th) Mail and Empire another letter of Mr. Clarke's in which he states that for which he has no grounds and which is untrue, he say:— Mr. Pettit and his son-in-law Mr. R. F. Holtermann are the chief promoters of the pure Honey Bill, as they call it. Mr. Holtermann retired from the columns of the Mail and Empire after my reply to him, but got his worthy father-in-law and one or two others to take up the cudgels against me.—Is a man to be allowed to make statements without one ground of truth and not to be accused of falsehood. I never asked Mr. Pettit to write anything on the

question in the Mail and Empire. Again Mr. Clarke writes in the same letter. "However, he returned to the fray in the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL which is published in the interests of the agricultural supply business of the Coold, Shapley & Muir Co. of Brantford." If he means by that, that the above firm publish the Bee Journal to boom their supply business by undue means (an inference which people would draw), we leave it to the judgment of readers of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. The Journal has been singularly free from such. In a Mail and Empire article, in reply to my letter, Mr. Clarke says he is insulted because I do not give him the title Rev. and my motive in withholding it has been to take weight from his letter; another unwarranted judgment of motives, yet what has Mr. Clarke said about this matter in past numbers of THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. On page 8, March 1888, he wrote in reply to Doctor Miller: The Dr. says: "Mr. Clarke should remember that additional weight is given, and if right, ought to be given, to what he may say by the title attached to his name." "I entirely dissent from this. I expect and ask no consideration because a stupid custom prefixes "Rev." to my name. I write on agricultural subjects as a bee-keeper—'only that and nothing more.' I wish my views and arguments to be taken for what they are intrinsically worth—no more, no less. Nothing of weight is added to them because of the title conventionally given to members. I give and accept the title under protest. I am no more "reverend" than any other man of my age, intelligent calibre and moral character. It is time we quit calling ministers 'Rev.' especially when we find a man like Dr. Miller calling for reverence for opinions because of that absurd prefix. The whole thing is unmitigated humbug and when it comes to 'Right Reverend,' 'Very Reverend,' and 'Most Reverend in God,' it is enough to make two or three dogs sick."

Readers will see how hard pressed Mr. Clarke is in this matter, and the pity of it is he is injuring through it all the bee keeping industry. ED.]

WHERE TO KEEP COMB HONEY.

Multitudes of the toilers of the world who labor faithfully to secure a harvest, in their vocation in life, fail to receive the just reward of their labors, on account of not properly caring for their crop when it is within their own hands. Thus we find butter selling at half price after it is made, through carelessness and neglect between that and the marketing, eggs becoming stale after they have been produced, vegetables rotting in the cellar after they have been gathered, and honey depreciating in value after it is taken from the hive; and so on throughout the varied lines of production. Would it not be better to spend more thought on how to care for the crop we have, than to ransack the earth and rack our brains with the one object in view to produce the greatest possible amount? These thoughts have been brought up by receiving the following from a correspondent: "Why does honey ooze out of the comb after it is taken from the hive and stored away?" This is a question which is often asked, and one which has confronted every comb honey raiser, sooner or later. Some seem to suppose that the cause of this state of affairs is that the bees do not thoroughly ripen the honey before capping it. A little thought must show the fallacy of this, for whether ripened or not, the honey can only ooze from the cells after being capped, on account of a larger bulk of liquid being in the cell afterward than there was at the time the bees sealed the cell. This can come only from one source, which is always brought about by either cool, damp weather, or a non-circulation of air, or both. Honey only swells as it becomes damp, and the first that will be seen of that dampness will be in the unsealed cells where the honey will have become so thin that it will stand out beyond the cells, or, in other words, the cells will be heaping full. If the dampness remains, the sealed honey will soon become transparent, while the honey from the unsealed cells will commence to run out, daubing everything below it, and eventually, if the cause is not removed, the cappings of the cells will burst, and the whole will become a sickening, sour mass. While in New York City I once saw several thousand pounds of such stuff, which was once as nice comb honey as could be procured, but it had become unsightly and spoiled by being stored in a damp, cool cellar. The cappings to the

white combs were ruptured, with the honey oozing out of the cells, to such a degree that the nice white cases were all soaked with it, and which, with large puddles on the floor, gave off a sickening smell which, with the unsightly appearance caused one to think of honey as only something to be loathed. The commission merchant asked me what was the matter with the honey. I told him that the damp, cool cellar was what was the matter, but he could not believe it until I caused him to confess that the honey was all right before it was placed in that cellar six or eight weeks previous. When I first commenced keeping bees, I stored my honey in a tight room on the north side of the house, where it usually remained from four to six weeks before crating for market, and some of the first sections remained much longer than this. In crating this honey, I always found the centre and back side of the pile watery and transparent in appearance. As that which was stored first was always the worst, I thought that it must be owing to that being the poorest and least ripened honey, until one year I chanced to place this honey by itself in a warm, airy room, when to my surprise, I found upon crating it, that this first honey was kept perfectly, while the later, stored in the old room, was as watery as ever. This gave me the clue to the whole matter, so when I built my shop, I located my honey room in the southwest corner of the building, and painted the south and west sides a dark color, to absorb the heat from the midday and afternoon sun. On two sides of this room I fixed a platform one foot from the floor, so arranged that the sections rested on the edges of strips $1\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ inches, which were long enough to hold 28 sections. The sections were often piled on these strips until they are fifteen or twenty feet high and thirty wide, making a cube, as it were, containing from three to six thousand pounds of honey on either side yet the whole was so piled that the air could circulate between each and every section. During the afternoons of August and September days, the temperature of this room would be raised to 100 and above, which would warm the part of honey to nearly that degree of heat, and as this large body of honey, once heated, retained the same for a great length of time, the temperature in this room would be from 85 to 90 at six o'clock next morning, when it was as low as 40 to 60 on the side. By this means the honey was being ripened each day, and that in the unsealed cells growing thicker and thicker. When on September 10th, or after being in the room from four to six weeks, the sections could be tipped over, or handled as carelessly as

I pleased without any honey running from the few unsealed cells, which the bees often leave around the edges of the section boxes. By having the doors and windows open on hot, windy days, so as to cause the air to circulate freely through the pile, I found that it took less time to thoroughly ripen the honey than it did where all was kept closed. In doing this, of course it is necessary to have screens up so as to keep the flies and bees out of the honey room. If I wish to keep honey so late in the fall that the sun fails to keep the room sufficiently warm, or from cool, cloudy weather, the temperature of the room falls below 80° for any length of time, I place an oil stove in it, and by regulating the flame to suit the circumstances, a temperature of about 90° of heat is always maintained. In this way honey can always be kept in perfect condition for any length of time, and when sent to market it will stand much abuse before it will begin to ooze from the cells or sour. What we want to strive for most, is not to see how large a quantity of honey we can produce, no matter in what shape it reaches the consumer, but to see how good a quality we can secure looking well at all times to the enticing shape in which it is put upon the market. This will help us much in establishing a staple market for our production, and earn for ourselves a reputation which will sell our goods at an advance in price over a poorer article.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Borodino, N. Y.

The Death of Mr. F. A. Rose.

In the last number of THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL we promised to give our readers some particulars of the death of Mr. Rose, for many years a director of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association. Some of those at the Stratford meeting will remember that Mr. Rose complained of severe headaches, these were more or less frequent, for some months before Mr. Rose's death he had been feeling better. He was sick only ten days before his death, the complaint being abscess of liver. Mr. Rose had rented his farm some time before his death, intending to devote his entire time to bee-keeping. He leaves a widow and two boys, one seven years old and the other only a few months. We understand there are some bees in excellent shape, some wax, a Barnes' combined circular and scrol saw, and dispose of. Any one requiring such might write to Mrs. Ellen Rose, Balmoral.

What Doctor Miller Wants to Know.—What He Thinks and Knows.

I've been very much interested, friend Holterman, in reading the account of that visit to C. W. Post. How I wish I could have been with you. It made me open my eyes wide when I read of 420 colonies in the one apiary. I didn't know that sort of thing could be done this side of California or Florida. I'd like to know how long he has been keeping so many colonies in one place, and the average per colony he has had vested with 800 or 100 in one apiary.

I'm wondering a little whether there may not be some mistake about the basswood blossom buds being killed and then adventitious buds coming out that would not have appeared at all but for the frost. Isn't it just possible that though the young leaves were killed the blossom buds were still left. The abnormal second growth that sometimes takes place in the way of blossoms is, I think, always later than the normal blossoming. Basswood as well as many other things bloomed early this year in this locality, much earlier than usual. It was accounted for easily by the remarkably hot weather early in the season.

I am strongly inclined to believe, and it may be that "the wish is father to the thought," that Mr. Post is right in thinking "that warm, fresh air may prevent diarrhoea." Indeed some indications lead in the direction of the belief that a colony already suffering from diarrhoea may be greatly improved in health by having a distinct rise in temperature accompanied by the admission of fresh air. As a rule the rise of temperature is all that need be looked after, for that of itself will cause an inflow of fresh air by mere gravitation of the heavier outside air, unless the cellar be nearly air-tight.

That inside cellar seemed to carry off the prize, and any of us could have an inside cellar by building walls six inches within the outside walls. What was the secret of the greater success in that inside cellar? Was it the mere fact that in it the temperature was never allowed to go below 48°? Quite possible.

You say Mr. Post thinks of putting some bees next winter right in the room that contains the stove, and you advise strongly against it. Now that makes me strut up to you, like a bantam rooster, and demand in a top-lofty manner, "Why? Why do

you say that? Just dare to tell me why?" I know it's the common thing to say that the stove should be in one apartment and the bees in an apartment adjoining, but like many another thing it seems to be nothing but idle tradition, without any reason given, and without any shadow of proof that a stove in the room will harm the bees. If I ask you for proof, I suppose you will refer me to the experience of G. M. Doolittle. I don't remember seeing any other case reported of the harm of fire in the bee-room. His testimony is concise and pointed: "I never used a stove except one year, and then I lost nearly all my bees." But was it the heat that killed the bees? If I am correct he used an oil-stove. One winter I got an oil-stove, and was quite delighted with the thought that I could heat with it the sleeping room that had no stove. I put it one evening in a room, closed the door and left it to warm up. About bedtime I went to the room and found it quite comfortable, but I noticed that the flame of the lamp in my hand went down quite low. I took it out in the hall and it came up promptly, but I found it sank as often as I went into the room. There was no chimney to carry off the exhausted air produced by the combustion, and that oil stove left the house the next day never to return. Of course a fire burning in either a bed room or bee-cellar with no chimney to carry out the result of the exhaust combustion could be expected to do no less than to result in death.

But let there be a decently conducted fire in a stove, and why should it be so much worse for bees than for folks? You don't always insist on having the stove in the room adjoining where you are sitting. Why should you for bees? I have for years kept a fire of hard coal in the same room with my bees, and my heaviest losses have usually been when this fire has been for part or all of the time omitted. Last winter my losses were not due to the presence or absence of fire, but to late hauling and putting bees in cellar without a fly. The bees in the shop cellar were not thus abused, and my loss in that cellar was 3 out of 90, one of the three being a nucleus. The bees came out in fine condition after a confinement of five months, and the stove stood in the middle of the room, the hives standing on all sides around and facing the stove. Now say, mister, why do you object?

I'm ashamed to say that I didn't know wax from old comb was softer than from new till I read it from Mr. Post. I wonder why. With regard to cooling wax slowly to have it clear, it may be worth while to mention for the sake of beginners,

that a large body of wax will cool slower than a small one. The average bee-keeper may find it a good plan to put his wax in the oven of the stove at night, and as the fire dies out it will cool more slowly than if on top. Also it will cool more slowly if a large body of water is with a small amount of wax.

Rev. W. F. Clark was entirely mistaken in supposing that the North American was bagged by a single member from Canada at the meeting last year. Never was stronger effort made to carry the meeting to any particular point than was made at St. Joe to have it go to Nebraska this year, and if nothing had been considered but the personal preferences of those present, Canada would not have stood a ghost of a chance. But there was a sort of understanding at Chicago that after St. Joe should come Canada, and that plea carried the day. If I may be excused for saying so, I think I did more of the bagging myself than did the member from Canada. At any rate I think I said more. And by the same rule I should urge its next meeting in Nebraska.

C. C. MILLER.

[Dr. Miller has given us some excellent thoughts in connection with the cooling of wax, let us note them. About the stove. Doctor, I object very strongly to going to bed with a stove going in the room, and that fits more nearly the winter condition of bees, so you have not caught me on that. Ed.]

The honey season opened well with plenty of white clover, but intensely dry weather set in and continued until it all dried up, and as we have not much basswood here, the honey crop will be very light.

R. A. Fowler.

Emerald, July 16th, 1895.

My ten colonies have produced an average of 55 lbs. of honey. I will reply at greater length when the season is over.

A. H. Craig.

Powassan, July 15th, 1895.

As near as I can judge at present we will only have about half a crop of honey on account of the long drought. Only three good rains since the snow went off. We took off 3200 lbs. clover and about 1000 lbs. basswood from 80 colonies. We had 950 lbs last year from the same number. We had a good basswood bloom but weather was poor through the best part of it. The crops are poor.

W. G. Russell.

Millbrook, July 21th. 1895.

QUEEN INTRODUCING.

How to Do it Successfully With But One Operation.

N. D. WEST.

To my dear brothers in bee culture. As I have been solicited to write an article for the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, I will give you a little of my experience and best method of introducing queen bees to full swarms or nuclei. I have just been looking over about 100 swarms where I introduced the queens a short time before, and not one queen lost. This is rather good luck. But before I go further I want to stop and emphasize the word STORE CANDY in large letters as the common stick candy is a *very, very* important thing to have to use with the Spiral wire queen cage to introduce queen bees. The hardest kind of candy you would hardly think the bees could eat it out of a cage as soon as they do, but it is sure to be eaten out. Suppose now I have 25 young laying queens in nuclei that I wish to introduce to swarms in an apiary away from home, I would take 25 of West's Spiral wire queen cages with the feeders filled with queen food (made of sugar and honey) next find the 25 queens in the nuclei and place one queen in each of the 25 cages, and then close the cages with their tin slide covers, fold a small piece of writing paper over the cover before shipping it, in the coils of the cage and number the cages on this paper, if you wish to keep track of the strain of bees your queens were reared from, etc.

Now I have a small tool box about 10x14 inches and 5 inches deep, made light with a leather handle to carry it by, and inside of this box I have a shelf for holding queen cages, and this shelf has 30 holes bored with a plump size $\frac{3}{4}$ inch bit, and each hole has a number marked close by it. this is to help keep track of the queens, etc.

Now say I have the 25 queens all caged, then I place one cage with enclosed queen in each of 25 of the holes in the shelf of the box, the cages stand perpendicular and a little over half their length down through the holes and rest on the bottom of the box, handy to pick out with my fingers.

Next and most important part is (and I think it is original with me) have 25 pieces very hard store candy cut from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long and 25 No 3 wire nails put in this box too. (These pieces of candy should be the right size to slip loosely in the large end of the cages.) The box should be

covered up and not exposed to extreme heat or cold. There are bees needed with the caged queen. Two hours later, say, I am in the yard away from home with these 25 caged queens. I then set the box of queens down on the top of some hive or convenient place, and prepare for business, put on a bee veil, get a good fire in a Bingham smoker and get it going well, being filled with seasoned hard maple wood. I also have a hive with a sheet of queen excluding zinc nailed on the bottom, and four legs so arranged that the hive will stand on its legs eight inches from the ground if the hive is right side up or bottom up either. This hive is to help in finding queens when needed.

All being ready I proceed to the first swarm I wish to open. Lift off the cover or sections carefully, use just enough smoke to keep the bees from rushing to the top of the hive and to prevent flying out to sting, then lift the frames carefully one at a time and look for the queen. I place the hive with legs and queen excluder in front of the hive I am working with, and hang the combs in this hive until the queen is found, then remove the condemned queen and take one of the young caged queens out of the box, remove the tin cover from the cage and place one of these pieces of hard store candy $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long in the large end of the cage, place a wire nail No. 3 below the candy so the candy will not slip down on the queen when the bees eat the candy part-away so the candy becomes small. Then hang the cage with inclosed queen on one side of one of the combs so that it will be out of the way between two combs in the hive when closed. Proceed until all the queens are introduced. The bees will eat this candy out *every time*. It takes at least 48 hours for a piece of hard candy $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long to be eaten out, a shorter piece may be used and the queen released sooner. The bees eat this candy from the sides of the cage and when the candy is eaten small enough the bees at the end of the candy will get in the cage with the queen before she gets out of the cage, the candy then acting as a queen excluder for a short time. The bees that get in the cage never hurt the queen even if they get in quite soon, and when the queen walks out she is at home and soon laying eggs near the cage. The hive should not be opened in a week after introducing to be safe, as many queens get killed by opening the hive too soon after the queen is liberated from the cage.

I did not expect to write as much as I have when I began. For I could have said it all in a nut shell to those who have experience in the culture, as below. (To introduce a queen to stranger bees, first remove

the condemned queen, and then before closing the hive give them a queen in West's Spiral wire queen cage with a piece of hard candy $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long in the large end of the cage (use store candy). Then place the cage somewhere in the hive, on the top of the frames or between the combs, and in from 30 to 48 hours the queen will be liberated. This all being done with but one operation, and the queen almost certain to be accepted makes a short and pleasant job of queen introducing.)

I will say a word more about how to find the queens in swarms when the bees get to running and make it difficult to find the queen. Then I shake all the bees off the combs in the hive with queen excluding bottom (as described before), and then smoke the bees down and all but the queen and the drones will very quickly be down on the under side of the queen excluder and the queen will be above the excluder in plain sight trying to get down too. Kill the queen, then lift the hive (with the bees that will hang on the under side of the queen excluder like a swarm on the limb of a tree). Set the hive down with a slam so its legs will strike the ground and lodge the bees on the ground just in front of the hive to which they belong, and then the hive with queen excluding bottom is ready to be used again.

Yesterday I went and put in eight queens for a neighbor, and found all of the condemned queens in this way, we were but a few moments in doing all of the work. With two men this is the quickest way I know of when the hives are very full of bees. Another way to help in finding queens is to shake all the bees off the combs on the ground two or three feet in front of their own hive, be sure the queen is not left in the hive. Then put a queen excluding entrance to the hive, then later in the day or early next morning go and find the queen trying to get in the hive through the excluder.

For the information of those who do not know, I would say the Spiral wire queen cages and queen cell protectors are now being sold and manufactured in Brantford, Canada, also by the writer of this article, in the U. S. A., and are also for sale by all of the leading bee supply dealers.

Middleburg, N. Y.

The honey crop here is light, about 25 lbs. per colony, but a good enough flow to keep bees in good condition all the season so far.

W. A. Chrysler.

Chatham, July 18th, 1895.

Bee Escapes and Their Use.

— J. W. Sparling.

I read Mr. Pettit's article in the last issue of the Journal with much interest, and although I cannot agree with his conclusions, yet it is not without some diffidence that I venture to differ from a veteran like Mr. Pettit. When I read the article I was just about taking off some combs for extracting, and thought I would see how long it would take me to put on escapes, and found I was 18 or 19 minutes in putting on 15 all and supers were heavy, which makes some difference in the speed with which the work can be done. I did not receive a single sting while putting them on, and this at a time when the bees were doing absolutely nothing, while, if I had brushed them from the combs, I should have expected to receive a good many as well as create considerable commotion in the yard. One would have to move with considerable celerity to brush the bees from the combs of 15 supers in that time, in fact I think to do so would be impossible. Of course there is the time to allow for taking off the escapes, which is not more than half that required to put them on.

Then again another consideration is that many persons have only mornings and evenings to attend to their bees, and escapes can be put on in the evening at a time when it is impossible to brush bees from combs.

Perhaps I might tell you how I proceed to put on escapes. At present I am using a smoker with a bent nozzle so do not even have to stoop to the entrance to blow in smoke, but just send a few puffs down on the bees, there and then with a chisel ground from both sides like a wedge I pry up the super, blow in some smoke, and raising the super at the back without lifting it from the hive, slip the escape board as far forward as I can, then let down the super and push the board into place as may be necessary. At least this is the way I do when there are two supers on the hive, but if only one super is on I lift it off, put on another set of combs then the escape with the filled super on top and no commotion or crowding of brood chambers ensues.

Still another advantage in taking off combs by means of bee escapes is that the dripping honey, caused by the breaking of the connections between the combs, is all cleaned up by the bees, and in this way

there is no leaking of the honey when the combs are removed.

Mr. Pettit's conclusion is also wrong I think regarding the escapes having a tendency to engender swarming, as several seasons use of them has led me to an opposite opinion.

It is not in taking extracted honey only that the escapes are a benefit. I also use them with much satisfaction in taking off sections, having in time past with much vexation removed them by smoking the bees out with its accompaniment of smoky taste, smell, etc., having long ago learned from the writings of Mr. Doolittle how to take off the supers before the "back rush" took place. Still I am so well pleased with the escapes in removing sections that I have not thought it worth while, Mr. Editor, to try your favorite, Carbolized cloth.

Mr. Charles Dadant, no mean authority in apicultural matters says, "But what need have we of brushes? Have we not the bee escapes? We have had this implement for so short a time that we are not yet fully aware of its usefulness. I must say that for our part we were very slow in adopting it, and that we considered it at first as one of the many catch-pennies with which so many beginners are enticed into spending their money. The bee escape, however proves to be more than we had anticipated, and we now have some 200 of them in use," and Mr. C. W. Dayton says, "That escapes are an advantage is not theory with me, for throughout the season of 1891 I kept an apiary of over 100 colonies within 51 feet of a much traveled highway to the city of Los Angeles. To open a hive and brush bees from the combs of one colony would send angry bees after teams and people to an extent as to block the passage. Escapes, on the other hand, prevented a single molestation, and where the presence of bees were looked upon as a terror, a friendly disposition was gained for them." Such testimony, Mr. Editor, would incline one to the opinion that escapes must have considerable merit. In using escapes it is very necessary to see that no opportunity presents itself for the entrance of robbers as when the supers become cleared the robbers soon seem to realize it and quickly avail themselves of any opportunity that offers.

BOWMANVILLE, July 15th, 1895.

I have quite a nice little crop of honey this season, but a little on the dark side, although some is quite nice and light.

H. N. Hughes.

Marie, Aug. 5th, 1895.

A Visit to Bee-Keepers in Different Parts.

—THE EDITOR.

After leaving Mr. Post's I went by the Central Ontario Railway to Picton, and as I had arranged to meet Mr. Lowey in the afternoon I went to Woodrows alone, a distance of five miles. The country was very dry, no rain of any account had fallen this season, the roads were dusty and the crops did not look well. Quite a crop of apples was promised. Mr. Lowey was born in this country, and is of Irish and Scotch descent. In a beautifully kept orchard Mr. Lowey had an apiary of 175 colonies; the apiary is in splendid shape, everything neat and in good order. He began keeping bees in 1884, starting by buying three old-fashioned skips of bees. These he transferred and took a Bee Journal. When he wanted to find anything out from other bee-keepers, they appeared afraid to tell him, but he generally worked his own way. His frame was supposed to be the Langstroth but it is not quite the same size. He uses nine frames and if he made any change he would change to ten frames and use a dummy, using the tenth frame when required. For extracted honey Mr. Lowey uses a queen excluder always, he would not think of doing without. In the supers he uses eight frames in the same place as nine below. For extracted honey he tiers up, often having two supers and frequently three, believing in allowing the bees to ripen honey well on that hive. On special occasions however such as danger of mixing light and dark honey he has ripened the honey a little afterwards, but Mr. Lowey says he thinks the hive the best place to ripen honey.

He has a good locality for bees, a good buckwheat district, and besides the light honey generally he has a good flow from the latter.

As to comb honey Mr. Lowey has produced a good deal of comb honey. For a number of years it has been mostly buckwheat, the bees not finishing the sections with light honey threw the honey in the dark grade. Mr. Lowey practices natural swarming now, although he used to build up nuclei when bees would sell for something worth while. When the bees swarm he leaves on four combs and the rest dummies. Sometimes he hives several swarms together when he puts on nine combs. He likes this method, the bees fill a crate of

comb very rapidly then. He put the new hive on the old stand, putting the crate from the old hive to the new. The old hive is left alongside the new with entrance away until the bees get settled, when towards evening it is put with entrance alongside of the entrance of the new hive. About six days after the swarm issues he puts the old hive on a new stand, thus reducing the old colony, preventing after-swarms and strengthening the worker force of the new. Mr. Lowey does not clip queen's wings and he does not often practice cutting out cells to prevent swarming. He has hives into which he has not looked for years, except as they can be examined from looking between the top bars. Mr. Lowey rather favors the T rests and the section holders, but putting one thing and another together I think he rather favors the T rests. He tried a board with slots under the sections, but he thinks this will not answer well after a test.

He winters in a bee house above ground as it is too wet in his vicinity for a cellar. The bee house is inside about 10x14x8 feet; it has two four inch walls with sawdust and a four-inch dead air space between. In this he has wintered as high as 110 colonies. There is no subearth ventilation but a hole one foot square upward. He has next door another place similarly constructed where he winters the balance. He winters with the honey board on the hive and cap off; these honey boards have a three inch hole with wire cloth, these he leaves open with a cloth over the wire. The bottom boards he has hinged at the back. In reply to a question Mr. Lowey said he thought he would prefer ventilation at the bottom and back of the hives but the hinges prevented.

Mr. Lowey has tried many ways of introducing queens. To make a sure job he would recommend either combs with hatching brood to which he would add the queen or he would shake the bees in a box without the combs and after they have found they are queenless drop the queen in, and after they cluster run them into a hive just like a swarm. He uses a cap about four inches deep. It is a little expensive, but Mr. Lowey thinks well worth the extra expense. Mr. Lowey does very little besides keep bees. He says he is in the business to stay, and one encouraging thing is, Mr. Lowey as the majority of our extensive bee-keepers, went in gradually, and increased on account of what he found was in the business. Mr. Lowey likes bees to stick to their combs. He finds some of the black bees as soon as disturbed are all over, on the other hand he thinks the bees with a little vim in them are the bees. His experi-

ence goes against the very gentle bees.

As to the bees working on fruit bloom Mr. Lowey finds the bees work well on fruit bloom, but he never got any surplus stored by the bees during that time.

I left on the afternoon train well pleased with my visit. Mr. Lowey kindly drove me to the station. I spent the night with Mr. Post and took the morning train for Belleville. In the October or November number it is my intention to give an account of my visit to W. C. Wells. He is a splendid bee-keeper, and made and exhibited flat-bottomed comb foundation many years ago, taking a diploma for it in Toronto in 1881.

The North American Bee-Keepers' Association.

Upon going to press the order of programme has not been decided on. There are also one or two very good addresses in addition expected. The following has however been decided on:

The Bee-Keepers' Union; its Past, Present and Future.—T. G. Newman, Chicago, Ill.

Amalgamation of the North American Bee-Keepers' Association and the Bee-Keepers' Union. Doctor C. C. Miller, Marengo, Ill.

Address of Welcome, etc.—Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, Toronto, Canada.

A short address, Jas. Mills, M. A., L. L. D. President Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Canada.

President's Address—R. F. Holterman. Introducing Queens, S. T. Pettit, Belmont, Ont. Bee Paralysis: What we know and should do about it.—E. R. Root, Medina, Ohio.

Mistakes of Bee-Keepers and Bee-Journals.—Allen Pringle, Selby, Ont.

How bee-keepers might receive more benefit from the Experiment Stations.—R. L. Taylor, Lapecer, Mich.

Who shall winter bees out of doors? Who in the Cellar?—F. A. Gemmill, Stratford, Ont.

What is indicated by color in Italian Bees? J. P. H. Brown, Augusta, Georgia.

The Proper Size of a Brood Nest and how it shall be decided.—Jas. Heddon, Dowagiac, Mich.

The surest and best way of raising a crop of Comb Honey.—B. Taylor, Forestville, Minn.

Some things of interest to Bee-Keepers. G. M. Doolittle, Borodino, N. Y.

Legislation for Bee-Keepers.—R. McKnight, Owen Sound, Ont.

Remember it will probably be many years before the North American again meets in Toronto; do not miss the opportunity to come. The meeting is in the Normal School Auditorium. The first session commences at 8 p. m. on Wednesday September 4th. The convention will probably close at the close of the afternoon or evening session, September 6th. (Quite a few bee-keepers have already decided to bring their wives with them: J. K. Darling, Almonte; W. J. Brown, Chard; W. C. Wells, Phillipston; Wm. McEvoy, Woodburn. A good attendance of well-

known bee-keepers from the United States is also assured.

"How Are the Bees?"

—G. W. Demaree.

How often I have answered the above question this season I could not venture to say. I met a farmer who knows that honey is stored by bees some time between spring and fall, and he asks me "how are the bees?" I answer him yankee fashion, by asking him "how is the white clover this summer?" "What can be the cause! Have you forgot the drouth of last summer and fall? O! no we had to haul water for months. That's it. But bees make honey of buckwheat, my father used to sow buckwheat for his bees! Certainly he did, but he did not know anything about bees or the sources from which bees gather honey. A little patch of buckwheat hardly gives a smell 'round to my large apiary. "What? my daddy didn't know anything about bees? He got honey all the same, he did, lots of it. I've helped him 'rob the bees,' and I've hived a swarm myself." O, yes your daddy used to get some honey from his 'bee gums,' and so did my daddy get some honey from his bees, but he would not succeed now with the crude knowledge he had of bees then. I can remember those days well, this country was new then, and the woodland was full of poplar, linden, wild plums, hawthorn, honey locust, mayberry, buck-eye, dogwood, red bud, sumach and an innumerable number of shrubs and bushes that bloomed nectar-bearing flowers. Where are they now? O, they have all disappeared, and wheat, corn and tobacco grow where this wealth of forest growth once stood. I had forgot that. "I really don't know anything about bees, they always would sting me." It is hard to talk bees when one is utterly disappointed and discouraged. Last year there was hardly enough rainfall to make a low average of crops under the best cultivation, while the protracted heat and absence of moisture literally burned the pasture lands dry. It is reasonable here this summer up to this writing, (July 12) what bloom we have, yields nectar freely, but it is too scant to be profitable. Last season dry and hot, followed by the hardest winter in the memory of the oldest Kentuckians, has necessitated a new start in bees and bee forage. Last winter with its deadly bug, and vegetable "dew" stores, for the bees to subside upon,

made my apiary resemble a grave yard more than the living throbbing animation it used to be in the early spring.

Protecting empty combs from the moth worms is a matter that has been neglected. We want a better way to keep moth worms from ruining our unemployed empty combs. The present season I have been deeply interested in the search after a cheaper and better way to preserve empty combs through the heated part of the season, than the old sulphur fume plan, I find that if treated before the combs become infested with worms, fine dry salt sifted into the cells will generally protect the combs. After the worms have got into the combs, gasoline (the same as used for cooking stoves) if sprayed in upon the combs will kill the worms like a flame of fire, and after it evaporates it leaves no smell on the combs.

I propose to keep right straight on with my experiments till I find a plan that will enable me to keep empty combs in the hives right in the apiary without the filthy fumes of brimstone. Who will feel enough interest in the matter to help me in this good work. We must not conclude that it cannot be done.

I hope our Canadian brethren will reap a better harvest of honey, for their labor this season, than we can possibly attain to under present conditions here. But Canada will have the great Annual Convention with them any way.

Christiansburg, Ky., U. S. A.

Correspondence.

PICRON, Ont., July 23rd, 1895.

I have your card of 12th inst. but before saying anything of particular moment in re the general instruction of the faculty of apiarists, I hope you will allow me to use a "nom de plume." I know from your own well-known writings in the C. B. J. that you prefer to see a man's own name at the end of his own paper, and in general so do I; but my dear editor it is expedient some times that one ought to attract as little attention as possible to himself as a man, and in all modesty as much attention as possible to what is said in regard to a subject of common interest, a "nom de plume" assists this object.

Another reason, it may be that I have friends and relations in every part of the known world, who might find good reason for very unfavorable criticisms of my essays and a "nom de plume" must form a shelter from the measure of ridicule induced by my blunders.

On this occasion you may either use my true name or the n. de p. and insert in the

C. B. J. whatever you may think best from letter, but if you will kindly print the n. de p. instead of my true name, it will have the effect of increasing my desire to write you again more fully.

Your goods are very good—perfect—but the price of foundation per pound is a little steep.

The honey harvest in this district for 1895, is very light, about a quarter of a good season's. I have received about 250 sections of good white honey, principally clover, but my hives were arranged and furnished for 1500.

There is a prospect of dark honey coming in in some quantity, in the meantime the bees are working on thistles, etc.

I have observed that as the rowans or mountain ash berries begin to color so does the honey begin to get slightly amber, and as the season advances the color deepens.

I think this is a good argument for dark honey to be more esteemed because dark and brightly colored fruits are as a rule richest in flavor, but honey you know is too often made the subject of mere fancy on the part of the buyer.

My bees began to swarm on the 8th June, and kept me busy all that month. I think that but one hive out of sixty tried to swarm a second time so that the apiary has needed less watching than any season I've experienced as yet, as this was without cutting out the queen cells which is usually practiced.

This is now the third poor season in succession, and it must be of general interest to know that bees pay even in the poorest season far more than the expense of boarding them during the winter, and generally make up a very heavy loss from the ignorance and carelessness of the inexperienced in wintering bees.

I have improved little by little from season to season, and have a good hope that next spring I may find the most desirable results—no loss at all.

SCRIPS.

To the Editor of The Canadian Bee Journal

DEAR SIR, —It will naturally happen that at this season of the year many will be thinking of providing for increase, and to the novice it is a matter of much importance how he sets about doing this, and a little of my own experience in this line in past years may not be amiss by way of suggestion.

When I got my first hive it was in the fall of the year, and on what I think was known as the Soper frame. During the winter following I made the acquaintance of the present worthy Sec'y of the O. B. A., who had but shortly left D. A. Jones'

establishment, and having no previous knowledge of bees, I learned all I could from him and from various journals and books, and had decided before spring that as the Jones hive was the hive *par excellence*, I would on the first opportunity transfer my bees into the Jones hive, and provide Jones hives for the increase, as I realized that in order to successfully handle bees they must be on a frame interchangeable through the yard.

I then laid in a stock of Jones hives and belongings, got a smoker, honey knife and extractor.

When the weather got warm enough I proceeded to transfer, and it was a serio-comic figure I must have cut to any practical bee-man who had happened round Veil down and watchfully tucked in at the bottom and pinned so as to leave no possible passage for any designing bee to crawl up through, a thick coat on tied at the waist, my pants tied at the ankles, great woollen mitts, the right hand one of which had to give place to an old kid glove so I could use my fingers of that hand, before the operation was finished, and what a sweaty, messy, stinky operation it was in spite of all my precautions.

Next job of the kind I had was to transfer a hive of bees from the Quinby frame, on which frame I had got them from J. B. Hall, of Woodstock. This was done perhaps a little less awkwardly than the first, as I was getting more familiar with handling the bees by this time. I had later, however, lots of transferring to do, but by that time I had got rid of the mitts and gloves and could go at it barehanded, could handle them as the saying is "without gloves" in the full sense of the words.

After a year or so I began to waver to wards the Langstroth, and introduced a few of the 10 frames, as I was now accumulating property in bees. I liked these very well, but one spring failing health caused me to throw up my situation and get out into the country with my bees in the hope of recruiting. It had to be decided what hive I would put my increase into, and the lot was cast in favor of the Jones, as extracted honey was to be the desideratum. There was a preponderance of Jones hives in the yard, and I had got more familiar with handling the Jones frames than the Langstroth, and had the impression that I could handle them more conveniently for the extractor. To make up enough hives to make it worth while to move to the country I bought twenty-five more supposed to be in the Jones hive, but found out when it was too late that I had been misled, and that they were on a frame inch and half shallower than the Jones, but the same

otherwise. These had all in the course of time to be transferred, and finally some five years ago, having become tired of the Jones single story hive, seeing that it was not up to date, I started to transfer to the Jones combination frame, or as I used to call it, the Thom frame, for it really originated in the yard of Dr. Thom, lately of Streetsville, and is just the Jones frame set on its side. With this I could comfortably run a double storey hive and work for comb or extracted honey as I wished. This was a good big job in transferring, but it was finally accomplished, and when I now sit down and look back over my whole career I see how sorry a road I have travelled, and what an expensive matter it was for me to get my experience, and of how much value it would have been to me to have known just the right hive to have started with at first. Yet my experience will not be lost if others benefit by it. In the strength of it therefore I would say to anyone starting in this pursuit try to get hold of one of the now standard double storey hives, and stick by it right through. Don't be easily led aside into experimenting with some other hive or method. Stick right down to honey producing or some simple, practical, generally-approved method till at least you have been some few years in the business. Keep your stocks strong and healthy.

There are at present in the market the following hives, among which I would make my choice if starting afresh:—The 8 frame Langstroth, the Jones combination, the Richardsou, and the Heddon, all of which have admirers. The first three can be preferred for wintering either outdoors or in, the last is better adapted for indoor wintering than outdoor. Either comb honey or extracted can be raised on any of them, and for one who has no bias in favor of any hive in particular, the most popular hive will naturally be the best choice, as it will give him afterwards more chances to sell bees in the hive. I believe that the Langstroth, either 8 or 10 frame (the 8 frame is, I think, now, and justly, the favorite) is much more generally used than any of the others, which is a powerful proof of the sound judgement exercised so many years ago by Father Langstroth when he devised this frame, and it is a lasting tribute to his genius that a great majority of American bee-keepers consider that it has never been improved upon. Yours very truly,

Galt, April 20, 1895. R. W. McDONNELL.

Thomas S. Sproule, M. P.

Thomas S. Sproule, M. D., M. P., son of James and Jane Sproule, natives of Co.

Tyrone, Ireland, who emigrated to Canada in 1836 and settled in the Tp. of King, Co. of York, Ont., and engaged in farming. He remained on the farm until 1862, when he engaged as clerk in the mercantile line in general store, at which he remained for two years, and then went to the University of Michigan to study medicine, graduated in the University of Victoria in 1868, and commenced the practice of his profession in the Co. of Simcoe, but afterwards moved to the Co. of Grey in 1869, where he now resides. Was engaged in stockraising for several years, before 1878, when, after being elected to Parliament, he abandoned it,



(Thomas S. Sproule, M. D., M. P.)

but three years afterwards commenced again, since which time he has been, in addition to the practice of his profession, engaged in general farming and stock raising. His fancy is the light harness horse, short horn Durham cattle, Shropshire sheep and Berkshire pigs. He was elected to the Tp. Council in 1874, and to Parliament in 1878 and in 1892, 1897 and 1891. Has been for many years a member of several Agricultural Societies in his County, in which he takes a deep interest. Was elected Chairman of the Committee on Expiring Laws in 1879, and afterwards Chairman of the Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills, and for the last four years Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Colonization, of which Committee he has been a member for the last 17 years.

REPORTS ON THE

HONEY CROP



I have forty hives, no swarms, no surplus honey, and there is none in the vicinity.

Robert Coverdale.

Canfield, July 22nd, 1895.

The honey crop in this locality is very light, about half as much as usual owing to the extreme drought. I have an acre of Bochara (sweet) clover, in bloom for some time past, from which I will get most of my honey. Scarcely any swarming with me or anyone else as far as I know.

D. P. Niven.

St. Catharines, July 23rd, 1895.

The honey flow has been very moderate here this year. It chiefly comes from Alsike clover. Lack of rain for the last fifteen days has been the cause of scarceness of nectar. No basswood here, no buckwheat, or only in small quantity.

Jacques Verret.

Charlesbourg, Que., July 25th, 1895.

The honey crop in this part is rather short, the clover being cut with the frost last spring and dry weather setting in has shortened the honey crop. No basswood this year. The bees seem to be in good condition this year but very few swarm. About forty lbs. per colony this season. Last year my bees gave me an average of 100 lbs. per colony, and from several colonies I have extracted 150 lbs. We had a heavy flow from the basswood last year. Bees came through well last winter; lost one colony. I use the Jones & Langstroth hives; I prefer the Langstroth hive. Bees winter far better with me when in the Langstroth hive. The combs do not mould so much as when in the large Jones hives. I winter in the cellar with temperature 40 to 41 degrees.

Chas. Oldham.

Tifford, Muskoka.

Honey around here is a failure on account of the continued dry weather. No clover, basswood was killed by the frost, but west of my place on higher ground I understand the crop is fair. We depend largely on buckwheat here.

N. D. West.

Middleburgh, N. Y., July 17, 1895.

Honey crop is a failure this year. My first extracting was on the 17th of July. I extracted 600 lbs out of 50 colonies spring count, while last year same date I had 2,000 lbs of honey out of the same number of col-

onies. I notice this week they are killing drones, a sign that no honey is coming in. Swarming was very limited, about 10 per cent has swarmed; the balance only built up and gave a little surplus. There is no honey coming in now, Everything is dried up by the extreme heat and drought. If we do not get rain soon there is no more honey for us this year. We had about half a crop from clover and very little from basswood on account of being frozen by that cold spell we had in May. I calculate that 20 lbs per colony will be the average this year around here, and perhaps only 10. It will be according to fall flowers.

A. & J. Blair.

Glen Sandfield, Ont., July 22, 1895.

The honey crop is very slim here. Bees did pretty well till the end of June. Since then they have done nothing.

J. W. Sparling

Bowmanville, July 15th, 1895.

Owing to the prolonged drought in this locality, the white honey crop will be light this year.

Andrew Nicoll.

Norwood, July 18th, 1895.

We have had three poor years but the present one is the worst of all. I have had no swarms and I do not hear of any in this neighborhood, and a very good thing, there being nothing for the bees to get except from the Alsike clover. No white clover on account of the terrible dry season. There will be very little basswood bloom, it being destroyed by the frost. I think the surplus honey will not exceed 10 lbs. per colony. I have taken some very fair sections and have also extracted some frames produced from the Alsike clover, but I do not intend to extract close; better to leave the bees plenty, as I have no great faith in the remainder of the season adding much to the honey crop.

Rickview, Ont.

Thomas Ramage.

We have no honey flow here this year, it is a complete failure. So far the bees are working a little on thistles. Now since the rain came if they get enough to winter on I will be well satisfied. It is the worst year for honey I ever experienced. The frost killed the clover and basswood and most of the fruit bloom. Charles Brown. Drumquin, July 24th, 1895.

Bees wintered fairly well in this locality last winter, although the winter was severe. I packed 54 colonies on their summer stands and all came through, but lost a few in the spring from queenlessness. My crop of clover honey is much above last year's, being about two-thirds of an average crop, but a very superior quality of comb honey. Not much basswood or thistle here, in fact both will be of no account, except some from buckwheat. Had barely enough swarms to fill vacancies. W. H. Kirby.
Oshawa, Ont., July 20, 1895.

As to honey flow, it was good while it lasted. It was over about the 25th June, only 12 swarms out of 60

Carrville, Ont. Josiah Reaman.

Basswood started the day after you left here and yielded splendidly. A cold wave struck us on the 9th inst. and upset the whole business, but they are starting out again to-day splendidly. The fine basswood in my lawn that we were looking at is about one-third opened and swarming with bees. I think basswood is at its best now. C. W. Post.

Trenton, Ont., July 13th, 1895.

I would say the honey crop is almost or quite a failure in this locality on account of the extreme dry weather.

Adolphus S. Fox.

Olinda, Ont., July 16th, 1895.

It has been rather a hard season on the bees. Very few swarms. Bee-keepers north of here had to feed their bees to keep them from starving. We had a few showers of rain lately which has put new life into the bees. I expect to get some surplus from the Canada thistle. There is a great demand for honey. A. Fyfe.

Harriston, Ont., July 22, 1895.

This has been one of the poorest seasons I have experienced in the fifteen years I have kept bees. Only twenty out of the forty-eight colonies survived the winter. The spring was cold and the fruit blossom destroyed by the frost so that building up was a very slow process. I have only had one swarm, and that was on June 1st. Strong colonies gathered a little honey from the alsike clover, but there is no white clover and no basswood. I have only extracted once when I got 550 pounds. A little more will be obtained when I take off the top stories. As far as I can hear about 40 pounds per colony has been realized in this section from those that came out strong in the spring, but nothing from those that were weak. J. Carswell.

Bond Head, Ont., Aug. 20th, 1895.

So far the honey flow has been rather poor this year, though it is beginning to pick up a little just now; it is rather late in the season as our flowers for the finest quality of honey are almost over and the buckwheat is coming in. The swarming has also been poor, out of 15 hives I only had three that swarmed. The appearances altogether seem rather low as compared with last year which was a very good one. Dr. E. P. Campbell, V. S.

St. Hilaire, Que., July 22nd, 1895.

The flow from clover and basswood has been good in this vicinity. Bees, however, wintered poorly owing to the poor quality of stores laid in for winter use. Generally speaking, I should think fifty per cent. of colonies died. The remainder were, with few exceptions, unable to build up for basswood which came about twelve days earlier than usual or about July 1st. Crop will be light, swarms moderate.

Jas. Heime.

Smith's Falls, Ont., July 13th, 1895.

The honey crop here is light this season if we leave the bees enough to winter on, but think it will not pay to take the honey and feed sugar. G. E. Saunders.

Agerton, Ont., July 18th, 1895.

Bees worked well in clover. Have not extracted the basswood flow yet; expect it will not be so good. Don't think the buckwheat will do well either on account of the dry weather. I work in flour mill, am obliged to do my bee work when I can and not when I would like to. Will endeavor to send you amount I get from eighty colonies (black bees). spring count.

H. E. Gale.

Ormstown, Que., July 19th, 1895.

The honey crop has been very light in this vicinity this season up to this date, will not exceed 10 or 12 pounds comb honey per colony, spring count. Although white and alsike clover bloom was prolific and abundant yet there was but little nectar. Basswood also yielded but little. At this date bees are not gathering enough to supply their daily needs. The prospects of a fall flow are not very encouraging.

Joshua Bull.

East Farnham, Que., July 19th, 1895.

The honey flow is not as good this year as it was last. The principal source of honey near Halifax is from willow, April 21 to May 22; fruit bloom, May 20 to June 8; raspberry, June 14 to July 15; Linden, July 9 to August 1; golden rod, Aug. 25 to Sept. 25. E. S. Goudge.

Halifax, N. S., July 16th, 1895.

This has been the poorest season in 25 years. Only three days on basswood and everything else a failure, or nearly so thus far. With quite an acreage of buckwheat, it is hoped the bees may get enough to winter on.

G. M. Doolittle.

Borodino, N. Y.

I am sorry to say our bees have stored no surplus from clover at all. It has been so very dry here all summer, yes I might say the spring to. We have 40 colonies running for section honey and 46 for extracted, and the receptacles remain nearly the same as when we put them on. Basswood is yielding some honey now but the greater part of the good basswood trees around us have been cut. There have been frosts in the marsh north of us, so buckwheat will not yield much. We had nearly two tons of honey at this time last year.

Ila Michener.

Low Banks, July 17th, 1895.

The flow from clover was good while it lasted, but the dry weather cut the harvest short by at least two weeks. Basswood nil, killed by frost; thistle nil, we don't grow that kind of fodder. Since the recent heavy rains the outlook for a flow from buckwheat is good, but buckwheat honey, like the Ben Davis apples, is poor truck any how.

Fred Hamm.

Bath, July 18th, 1895.

I must say that this season is alright for anyone keeping bees for pleasure, but as we don't all keep bees to look at, it don't suit me. There is going to be lots of bees but not much surplus honey. I will not have five pounds to the hive on an average, and the rest of those keeping bees around here are faring no better, but bees are going to have enough to go comfortably to winter quarters, and perhaps will make up for this years holidays some future time.

Danl. Eby.

Moorefield, Ont., July 19th, 1895.

Honey crop very poor, almost a failure with me. the white and alsike clover dried up almost as soon as it came out. I have not one super that is well filled on the strongest hives. Extracted is a little better than comb honey.

J. L. Grosjean.

Cobourg, July 20th, 1895.

In my report I can tell you that I commenced to extract my honey June 27th. At that date I took out some 400 pounds. I have also taken off 100 sections. So far the honey is of very good quality and the indications are favorable at present.

Sam. Brabant.

Beaubaruois, July 13th, 1895.

The honey crop here is light, about 25 lbs. per colony, but a good enough flow to keep bees in good condition all the season so far.

W. A. Chrysler.

Chatham, July 18th, 1895.

I have quite a nice little crop of honey this season, but a little on the dark side, although some is quite nice and light.

H. N. Hughes.

Barrie, Aug. 5th, 1895.

No surplus in my locality. Bees may have enough to winter on. Last winter losses were heavy.

Jas. Shaw.

Kemble, Ont., August 5th, 1895.

The honey flow in this vicinity has not been too bright this season on account of the heavy frosts during the month of May. White clover yielded well for two weeks. The last week in June and the first week of July, honey seemed to roll in kind of freely, but at present there seems to be a lull. Still hoping that buckwheat will give an abundant flow, in order to fill up for winter stores, I remain.

John R. Shaw.

Alexandria, Ont., July 19th, 1895.

Honey crop so far the best for many years. Buckwheat just coming in, the bees are working well on fields that were sown early.

W. J. Brown.

Chard, Ont., July 20th, 1895.

Since last month's report in the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL we, at Brantford, have had abundant rains. Bees are working as we never saw them work at this time of year. We have had swarms frequently, three in one week. The odor of honey and the roar in the apiary at night speaks well for honey. The bees have drawn out foundation in sections. What the result will be we do not know. Up the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railroad we have seventeen hives of bees on buckwheat with good prospects. To give our readers an idea of the continuous honey flow, we would say that since early spring the bees have killed no drones. At present writing there is every indication of swarming. The river flats with their rich bottom lands and the sweet clover have helped very much.

R. F. Holtermann.

August 17th, 1895.

Many indeed think of being happy with God on heaven; but the being happy in God on earth never enters into their thought.—John Wesley.

Every day is a little life, and our whole life is but a day repeated. These, therefore, that dare lose a day, are dangerously prodigal; those that dare misspend it, desperate.—Bishop Hall.

SPECIALITY IN BEE-KEEPING.**Has it, Or Will it Pay in Canda.**

Like most subjects relating to modern apiculture this one also appears a little threadbare, at least in the majority of sections throughout Canada. True, there are a few locations which have not totally thrown up the sponge, they having always yielded some honey even in poor seasons, but such sections are few and far between. Apiculture on the whole, therefore, has not been remunerative enough to justify the abandoning of all other things and depending solely on it for a livelihood. There are however, some few apiarists, who in the past have devoted their whole time and labor to specialty, and made it pay too, at least for a certain length of time, and who had very serious thoughts of doing nothing else, who now think quite differently, and are indeed almost completely discouraged. I may also add, that, of a large number who quite recently commenced the business of honey production, some on quite an extensive scale, that the majority have lost the major part of their enthusiasm, and some in fact have given up in disgust. The latter, for the most part, being those who thought that neither brains nor work were necessary to follow it up. This to some extent, is not so much to be wondered at, as seasons of late have not been all that one could desire, the present one seeming to cap the climax in this respect, it being one of the very worst experienced in Canada.

Now while I have thus written of Canada I have also like many others, come to the conclusion that even in the United States, our brother bee-keepers are not as jubilant as they at one time were, indeed I could not but observe this fact during my short visit in Southern California the past winter. Bee-keepers like ourselves in Canada, have been trying to study out locations, the weather, the rain fall, etc., and even the best kind of hive for migratory bee-keeping, in order that full advantage may be taken of the pasturage at different seasons of the year. There is another factor in connection with bee-keeping at the present day, in addition to the poor seasons, and that is the poor prices our product seems to realize. As to the remedy for the latter I confess I am unable as yet to suggest one, other than I have already done, viz. to caution those who may have been fortunate enough to secure a crop of any consequence this season, to demand a good price for the same, in the hope that those who in a great measure depend on apiculture for supplying bread and butter to their families may not

require to sacrifice what may be harvested another season.
F. A. GEMMELL.
Stratford, Ont.

Toronto Industrial Fair.

An unbroken record of successes in the past is the best possible guarantee that the Toronto Industrial Exhibition of 1895, which opens on the 2nd of September, will be a display of unrivalled attractiveness. Many improvements in the buildings and grounds have been made to further the convenience of exhibitors and the public, and with the return of an era of prosperity, the enterprise of the management will doubtless be rewarded by a thorough appreciation of the inducements offered. The volume of exhibits this season will be larger and more diversified than ever before, and special attractions of a brilliant and exciting character will be presented, including the novel military spectacle "The Relief of Lucknow," with gorgeous Oriental accessories and pyrotechnic effects on a scale of grandeur and variety hitherto unequalled. The system of cheap railway fares and special excursions from far and near enables all to visit the fair at trifling cost, and everyone should take advantage of the opportunity, as it embodies all that is best worth seeing and knowing in mechanical progress and scientific invention. All entries close on the 10th of August.

GUIDING THOUGHTS.

Silence is one great art of conversation.
—Hazlitt.

To pity distress is but human; to relieve it is Godlike —Horace Mann.

The grief which all hearts share grows less for one —Edwin Arnold.

Make life a ministry of love, and it will always be worth living. —Browning.

There is no fit search after truth which does not, first of all, begin to live the truth which it knows. —Bushnell.

We are doing a good deal towards making ourselves look old and ugly when we give way to worry and fretfulness. —Ruskin.

A holy life has a voice; it speaks when the tongue is silent, and is either a constant attraction or a perpetual reproof. —Hinton.

He who is false to a present duty breaks a thread in the loom, and will find a flaw when he may have forgotten its cause. —Beecher.

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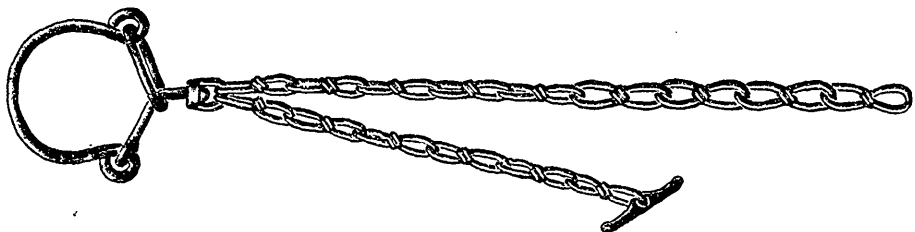
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**GOULD, SHAPLEY & MUIR CO.
(LIMITED)
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R. F. HOLTERMANN, - - - EDITOR

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THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. of which the annual subscription fee is \$1.00, will be given to members of 1895. The report of the annual meeting is also given, which is a full report of all interesting discussions as well as giving financial statements, etc.

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The Association can fairly claim the support of all interested in bee culture and we trust that all seeing this request will respond by remitting the annual membership fee of one dollar, (\$1.00) by registered letter or Post Office Order.

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