

THE

CANADIAN

Honey Producer.

Its Reading Columns for the advancement of Honey Producers exclusively.

Vol. 2.

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No. 10.

The Canadian Honey Producer,

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BRANTFORD, - - - - - ONTARIO.

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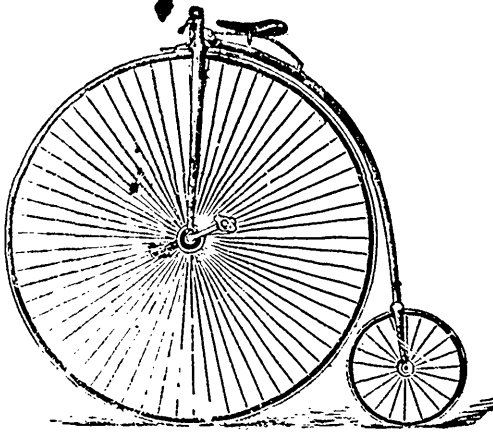
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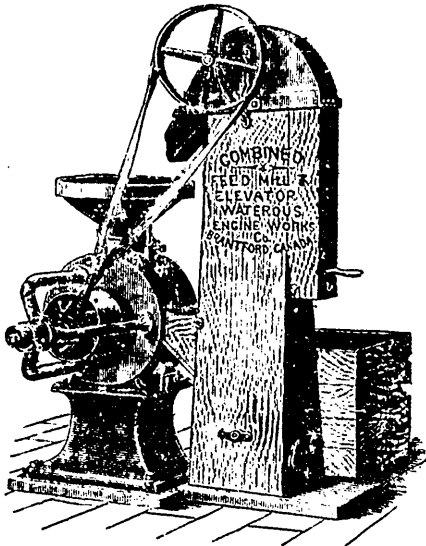
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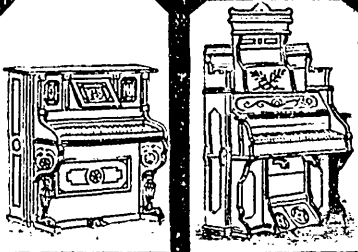
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THE CANADIAN HONEY PRODUCER.

Vol. 2. December, 1888. No. 10.

The Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association will meet in the Council Chambers, Owen Sound, Jan'y. 8 9, 1889. The first session will probably be called at 2 o'clock. Further particulars and Railway Certificates necessary to secure one and one-third return rates can be secured by writing to Wm. Couse, Streetsville, Ont., the Secretary.

Last year when we proposed that the Secretary should receive a small remuneration for his services we were told quietly and in a gentlemanly way that that was the business of the Directors, and the Association at large had nothing to say about the disposing of the grant. At the time we all were new at the work of being organized under the Ontario Agriculture and Arts Act, and we thought that perhaps we had made a mistake. Upon studying the question at home, however, we find we were correct and the members can pass any by-law disposing of even the entire grant and the Directors have to carry out the by-law. And does this not appear reasonable. Can the members of the Association, all things being equal, they being in greater number, not come to as wise, and if in a multitude of council there is safely, a wiser decision.

The Constitution Article vi. is illegal as contrary to the Agriculture and Arts Act, no doubt this will be changed at the annual meeting. We must of course learn; and mistakes are liable to occur and probably the only wise thing to do is to correct them when innocently made and drop the past.

As to the special grant of \$25.00 to

the Toronto Industrial, we must say it does appear unfair, or at least open to criticism. Why have the York B. County Bee-Keepers not enterprise enough to form a County Association and use a part of this grant for the purpose, or if the Ontario Association sees fit to give it again, let them throw it open to every exhibition that gives a certain number of medals and cash prizes and put the amount very high, then it will be fair and no one can find fault. It appears to us the \$50.00 prize given at Toronto should be divided and one given of \$25.00; \$15.00; \$10.00. Now these remarks are not made to find fault. We doubtless all of us have learned lessons during the past year and only by reflecting upon suggestions can we hope to improve. Members should turn out to the meeting at Owen Sound for we trust we shall have a pleasant, harmonious and profitable meeting. We know of a number already who purpose going from the Western part of Ontario. No one need think they are going to have the full benefit of the meeting by reading the reports afterwards in the Journals; this is impossible however good they may be. We have attended many conventions and however small they have been we are safe in saying we have always secured some valuable thoughts, and that is more than we can say of reports in Journals of meetings. Just here let us make a suggestion to Reporters of conventions. Too often they read likethis. The—Association met, (date,) at (place.) Here follows a long list of names, they had a pleasant time, topics. (Here follows a list,) they will meet again, (place and date.) They had a very profitable time.—Here the paper has been filled up with a column of matter which might be far better employed. It is all right if there is room and you give us the points of discussion, but if you must leave one or the other out, give us the discussion, to give the subject and not the points of discussion is aggravating in the extreme.

OUR OWN APIARY.

We fully intended to put some of our colonies in winter quarters in Oct. but the unusual mildness of the season prevented, and our first colonies were put into the cellar Monday morning, Nov. 12th.

The heaviest and strongest colonies are placed nearest, (18 in.) from the cellar floor. The colonies are tiered four high each, and each pile stands entirely independent of the other, so that every colony can be reached without great trouble. The lightest are on top, first because we are of the opinion where temperature is not high that the colonies towards the top may consume less stores, and a colony below the average will stand a higher temperature than a very strong colony. Should the light colonies for any unusual reason require more stores, they can be reached with the least trouble. Of course any method which might call for the necessity of winter feeding is to be condemned and shows wilful neglect or insufficient time to give one's business proper attention.

The outside temperature was 50° that of the cellar 49°, and it required very careful handling to carry them down a stairway to the cellar, however we succeeded, and so that the temperature of the repository which is large enough to contain 56 colonies of bees with 2 feet of space all around the walls and 1 foot between the lower hive and bottom of the cellar.

As we buy and sell bees constantly we have quite a variety of hives—all except 8 with Langstroth frame, however; some with movable bottoms some without. It was our intention to raise all we could from their bottom boards but this necessitated so much disturbance that we gave it up much to our regret. We think however the cellar will be very dry and trust they will winter safely. From Sept. 26th to Oct 12th we find that colonies have consumed from three to five lbs., there was practically no brood in the hives when first weighed and we suppose so

much was consumed owing to the changes from cold to very mild. This is our first season for wintering in a cellar and unless colonies do not require more than 10 lbs. whilst there we are afraid some may starve before Spring; they have however been placed on top and will be watched. We have 46 colonies to go into winter quarters mostly on the full number 8 frames, a few are however on three to five frames.

Nov. 15th.—We have been carrying a few colonies in at a time, this makes the work less disagreeable and what is more important, prevents any tendency to disturb the bees already in the cellar, only seven remain outside. we are so satisfied that the bees will consume less in the cellar that we have brought these in, all is perfectly quiet although the light is shining from a window into the cellar, and the doorway to the repository is open making everything dimly visible in the latter, it does not appear to tempt a bee away from the hive and but few can be seen at the entrance. The temperature has run from 49° to 51°, at present it does appear as if they could not be better situated.

Nov. 15th.—We this day saw bees working on sweet clover.

Nov. 17th.—This evening we have carried the remaining bees to the cellar, the thermometer is registering 12° above zero, we are well satisfied that our bees did not catch this cold snap.

Mr. Thos. G. Newman, editor of the *American Bee Journal* says:

"The Canadian Honey Producer for November is on our desk. It was the first of the monthlies to put in an appearance and has a fair report of the Columbus Convention." Mr. Newman then follows with some very kind and complimentary remarks about the editor of this paper. We thank brother Newman for these and are pleased to hear our report was a fair one. We always want to be just and fair in reporting, laying aside our own views.

The American Bee Journal has the longest report of the convention. It can be procured in pamphlet form at their office for 25c. or is supplied free to members of the Association.

The October number of the *Bee-Keepers' Review* is really excellent. The subject taken up is an important one, "ventilation."

The testimony of leading Bee-Keepers in the United States agree with that of some of our own best Bee-Keepers such as J. B. Hall, Woodstock, and Martin Emigh, Holbrook. They do not want sub earth ventilation. They attach much importance to having the hives raised from the bottom boards at least one inch. Mr. Hutchinson in an editorial says :

The subject for the coming month is Moisture. The editor says : "Perhaps the most practical method of drying the air in a cellar would be by the use of charcoal or lime which are great absorbants of moisture.

We used to think this the best method but lately we have found some ground for changing our views.

The higher the temperature the more moisture the atmosphere can retain without condensing; if therefore a contrivance can be constructed of such a nature as to condense and carry off the surplus moisture in a certain part of the cellar we have the problem. Taking advantage of natural laws we can have a pipe running near the top of the cellar and exposed for a certain distance to the atmosphere of the cellar through the pipe; the outside atmosphere may be permitted to circulate or not as circumstances direct. When we find by means of the dry and wet bulb thermometer, and the result of experience that the atmosphere has too much moisture, the moisture can be made to condense upon the cooler surface of the exposed pipe and dried. The condensed moisture will trickle from the pipe and can be carried off into a vessel for the purpose. This law we know is taken advantage of in places where it is not

expedient to change the atmosphere and yet it contains too much moisture, it works with entire success and by careful management should in cellars for bees.

On page 819, *Gleanings in Bee Culture*, friend Root in referring to our report in Oct. issue of the *Canadian Honey Producer* says : Now, friends, where is there a plant in our whole list of plants that are raised for honey alone that has given a yield like this? I venture to say that no one has ever yet given us anything like it. We should like to have friend Holtermann tell us more about it. Was the buckwheat the new Japanese, the silver hull or the old fashioned kind?

The report came from the President of the Brant Bee-Keepers' Association, D. Anguish, and we put the question to him. He said the colony gained as follows : Sept. 14th, 2½ lbs. ; 15th, 5 lbs. ; 16th, 7½ lbs. ; 17th, 11 lbs. ; all from buckwheat. There was one acre of the Japanese, the balance from silver hull there being little or probably none of the common about. We may say that Mr. Barber of Hartford, and others express themselves as highly pleased with the Japanese and we should sow it in preference to others. We have no practical experience this season with buckwheat to any extent.

The Canadian Bee Journal makes a very happy suggestion and one which reflects much credit upon it, in speaking of the International American Bee Association meeting at Brantford next year, it says :

"Next year the meeting being in Brantford we trust that some arrangement may be made to secure a good crowd. Let the O. B. K. A. and all County Societies make it a point to attend in a body. . . . Our suggestions may be premature but beginning in time is half the battle."

What an excellent idea if all the County Associations, and we believe there are seven alone affiliated with the Ontario, besides a number of others—and the Ontario and the Quebec can arrange to meet in a body at Brantford. They alone would have

one of the very best conventions ever held, if we add to this the Bee-Keepers of the United States and as it is proposed representatives from several European Countries we shall certainly have the best meeting Bee-Keepers have ever held, and we can assure the editors of the *Canadian Bee Journal* and all others a most hearty welcome to Brantford.

For the Canadian Honey Producer.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Langley, Sept. 25th, 1888.

I started last winter with 14 colonies, 2 of which died, or rather a quantity of the bees died and with them the queen, of course what were left soon dwindled away. From the 19th of April to the 1st of May I gave them a general overhauling, cleaning out to see that they were all in proper condition for breeding. They were then gathering more honey (from fruit trees, raspberries, maples and bloom of various kinds of trees, and bushes both wild and tame,) than they were using. On the 10th of May I saw the first white clover blossom and from the 11th to the 24th of May I took from each colony the two outside frames which were full of capped honey, replaced them by two empty combs and put on the upper stories filled with empty combs. The bees took to them immediately and stored honey rapidly. By this time white clover was out in full bloom and the ground was just covered with it, never saw more if as much bloom before. The outlook was most promising, the heart of the Bee-Keeper greatly rejoiced, and his eyes almost began to stand out with premeditated fatness; he moreover mentally prepared a flaming notice to the lovers of sweet things in anticipation of the necessity of an increased market. But alas! it was all premature. By about the 1st of June I noticed that the bees had ceased to gain, nearly all bloom except clover was over by this time; I could see very few bees working upon it, and when I picked the heads to pieces could not see or taste any nectar in them; they were working continually, however, on some turnips that were put out for seed. On the 19th of June I opened a hive and found that not only was

there no unsealed honey in super but the bees had actually uncapped some and used it. I opened hives several times after this, sometimes a little new honey was being stored and at other times none, and though they were immensely strong in bees I could stand at times between two hives and count all the bees that went out, and when I was handling them they would rob and sometimes sting and fight like tigers. I think I got 20 stings when handling one hive, and that's what makes a man think of going out of the business. As I was likely to be too busy to attend to them during haying should a large flow of honey have come, I took (about the latter part of June and forepart of July) from 2 to 4 of the fullest frames from several of those that had the most and replaced by empty combs so that they would have more room. At the beginning of August many of the hives were no heavier than they were at the first of June; this is the time that they generally cease storing surplus as the white clover is about dried up, and the Bee-Keeper felt poor in pocket and pesky in mind. They began to gain a little after this however and continued to do so till nearly the middle of September, working pretty thick on the white clover which kept fresh and plentiful up to that time, and of which there is some yet. I noticed them also a good deal about the red clover of which there are scores of acres of second crop in bloom, a dozen heads of which I believe would yield a cell of honey but would require a bee with a pump from $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch in length to reach it. At this time (middle of Sept.,) I took off the supers and as there was honey scattered throughout most of the frames I laid aside sufficient to feed to the bees by uncapping and hanging a few in an upper story and allowing the bees to carry it below until they would have sufficient for winter stores. This left me with what I had taken before, an average of about 36 lbs. per colony (extracted.) The bees were rather weak in numbers, not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ as many as there were in June.

The best colony gave a little over 60 lbs surplus. Last year 14 colonies averaged 50 lbs. (extracted,) which I suppose was almost equal to same amount of comb inasmuch as each colony built out from 10 to 18. L. frames of comb most of them being transferred that

Spring with from 2 to 4 frames of brood and sufficient frames of foundation to make up 20.

I have kept this year about 100 lbs. of honey in the combs, as there are some parties here who keep bees in boxes and were going to smother some to get the honey. I am to have the bees for saving their lives, and intend to utilize the above 100 lbs. for wintering what I get in this way. I did not allow my bees to swarm at all, had very little trouble to prevent them. Those who keep them in boxes, of course could not prevent them and many of the swarms I think have not sufficient stores upon which to winter.

Last Spring with us was pretty wet up till about the end of the first week of May, from that time onward there was 4 or 5 weeks of very hot weather (no rain,) after which the season though not excessively wet was considerably more so than for several years back, and the growth of everything was most luxuriant, except fruit which is not as good as it has sometimes been.

I see numbers of queries answered through the Canadian Honey Producer, whether these emanate from your subscribers or not I do not know, however on the two enclosed slips you will find a number of questions to be answered through the C. H. P., if such is your custom. If you can so answer you will for the present greatly oblige.

Yours truly,

ALEX. HOLDING.

Thanks for your interesting report. Your season has been very much like ours. We want queries sent in by our readers of course, and are pleased to have them answered in order as sent in.—ED.

For The Canadian Honey Producer.
CHLOROFORM in the APIARY.

PREVENTION OF INCREASE—INTRODUCING
QUEENS—UNITING AND MOVING BEES.

The past season many articles have appeared in the various bee papers, written by some of the most extensive and most experienced Bee-Keepers of the day on the important subject, "The prevention of increase in working for comb honey." The sum and substance of all that has been written is to give plenty of

room to a colony to prevent them getting the swarming fever, and the vigorous use of the extractor to deprive them of the swarming fever after they once get it.

In my opinion the prevention is better than the cure by a long odds. This extracting of nice sealed honey out of the brood nest (which makes the best of winter stores) is something I could not tolerate, to say nothing about the amount of extra work for nothing, when a much easier and simpler method will do.

The swarming fever appears to be and is the great trouble to get over when the bees once get it. The best, the easiest, the quickest, and the cheapest way to cure that fever is by the use of Chloroform given to them by the smoker just at dark when the bees are nearly all in the hive, to be given to them till they lie like dead bees upon the combs, or till not a bee will fly when the honey board is taken off and the hive kicked.

Two years ago last June I treated a colony just as I have described. They had their first queen cell capped and would have swarmed the next day. The morning after drugging they went to the fields as usual, apparently none the worse for the dose. Upon examining them in the evening, 24 hours after the drugging, the queen cell was still intact. Forty-eight hours after drugging I examined them again and found the cell still intact, and no further progress had been made on any of the other queen cells.

They had one case of sections on. I then took away all finished sections, and filled up again with sections containing full sheets of foundation. Seventy-two hours after drugging I examined them again and found the cell torn to pieces. About a week after this I gave them another case of sections, there was a steady moderate yield from the raspberry during this time. This colony gave me about fifty lbs. of nice finished sections that season.

The above experiment convinces me that Chloroform is the specific.

When a swarm issues, put it back, take away all finished sections, and fill up again, and give room enough for all the bees to work; then give them a good drugging in the evening. Before morning they will be rid of the effects of the drug, and will have forgotten, or given up all notion of swarming, and go to the fields to gather nectar and pollen as usual

the next day. I find Chloroform very useful in the apiary.

In introducing queens not a queen need be lost. Also in the uniting of colonies, not a bee will be lost from fighting excepting one of the queens. Also in moving bees about the apiary, set them anywhere and in the evening give them a dose. In the morning they will be seen marking their location as they fly out, and will return to it, they having forgotten all about the old one. I suppose ether would do as well as Chloroform although I have never used it.

In all cases the drugging should be to a stupor, except in introducing queens in a honey flow, when very little or none is needed. Objections may be taken to the use of Anaesthetics in the apiary on the ground of their being injurious to the bees. My observation has been very close and so far I have not been able to detect any difference. Twelve hours after a colony has been drugged they will be as brisk as ever. As a proof of this, take a queenless colony in the fall that is being robbed wholesale, no defence being made at all, drug in a queen in the evening and in the morning watch and see how the inmates will shoot up off the alighting board at the robbers as they appear.

The foregoing remarks are from my own observation and experience. My theory for the prevention of increase in working for comb honey originated with myself (never having seen anything written on the subject).

I only tested it on one colony; but I have no doubt but what Chloroform will prove effectual every time if properly used. I do not need to prevent increase as yet, because I am working up an apiary from a small beginning, but if the time ever comes that I shall need to, Chloroform is what I shall use to accomplish my purpose.

W. H. KIRBY.

Oshawa, Sept. 29th, 1888.

Putting Bees in Winter Quarters.

After two nights of hard frost, 16 degrees below the freezing point, I have had my bees put into their winter quarters, a small house built in the side of a hill, and in which I have wintered very successfully for the last 6 years. It is boarded up inside and when it comes above the banking is filled in with 4 inches

of saw dust. A foot of saw dust under the roof; two feet of saw dust packing in front, and two doors. The house being built when I began keeping bees and did not expect ever to be able to manage more than a dozen colonies is rather crowded with 24 hives, but a sub earth ventilating pipe 100 feet long and a pipe through the roof makes it answer very well except that towards Spring the temperature will get up. I like to keep it at 42° and would never have it above 45° even towards Spring if I could help it.

I attribute my success in wintering so far to my never putting my bees away damp, and to avoid this, before frosty nights replace the summer quilts with thin factory cotton, over which I put quilts made with a layer of wool between coarse canvas, and put on a cap to the hive so that the lid does not lie flat on the quilt and keep the moisture from the breath of the bees in the hive.

I am wintering 8 colonies outside, packed in saw dust, and now that I know how to arrange the covering over them find they winter as safely and with as little honey as in the house, but it is more trouble to pack and unpack than to carry into the house in the Fall and out of it in the Spring.

The storm porch over entrance of hives saves from any danger of smothering by snow drifting; in said storm porch is a small box as wide as entrance of hive with a flap to let down in front to keep the drifting snow out. A two inch auger hole in one end of box admits air even if hive and porch are completely covered with snow.

HENRIETTA F. BULLER.

Cambellford, Ontario, Nov. 20th, 1888.

Norfolk Beekeepers' Association.

The Norfolk Beekeepers' Association met at Dean's Hotel, on Saturday, Sept. 1st. The Vice-President L. W. Kitchen opened the meeting. Mr. Ryder reported very few swarms, no light honey, all dark, with an average of about 20 lbs., comb honey per colony. Mr. Murphy reports no early honey. From 10 colonies in the Spring he had extracted 500 lbs., and increased to 15. Mr. McInlay gave his report. He had 115 colonies in the Spring, increased to 200 and had 4,500 lbs., of honey. He had worked on the tiering up system this season, which was generally thought

best for a year of this kind. Mr Kitchen reported very little early brood, no clover honey. He had 6 colonies in the spring increased to 8 and had taken 140 lbs., of honey. R. S. Gage reported an average yield of honey, but no increase. C. W. Culver gave his report. From 13 colonies in the Spring increased to 23 and had taken 400 lbs. of honey gathered from the Japanese Buckwheat. The winter store is all buckwheat honey this year. Rag-weed, Motherwort and Golden-rod were spoken of as good honey plants this year. It was decided to give a special prize of \$10 at the Union Exhibition for the best and neatest display of honey and apiary fixtures, the largest amount not necessary to win. The next meeting will be held in Delhi on Dec. 2nd.—*Norfolk Reformer.*

WINTER QUARTERS.

A correspondent of the *Iowa Homestead*, writing about the time at which bees should be put into winter quarters, says:—

I see it is advised by some writers not to put bees into winter repositories until cold, freezing weather. This, I think, cannot be endorsed by practical bee-keepers, although we know of bees that wintered under these circumstances. Yet I call it bad economy. It may be advisable to avoid long confinement, as I see it very often advised to give bees a fly when the weather will permit during the winter. This I do not approve of, as bees can be kept in a good repository for a much longer time than is required in this climate, and kept in good condition.

To winter bees well they should be put in the winter quarters before frost gets in the hive, be it the first of November or the last. I had two colonies put in on the 24th day of October and weighed. The very same day I also weighed twenty colonies and left them on their summer stands. On the 16th day of November I weighed them again, and put them in the repository. I found that they consumed on the average three pounds to the colony, while the two in the repository only consumed one pound. On the whole number I lost 160 pounds of honey on those I left on the summer stands; or, in other words, I should have saved 160 pounds of honey if I had put them all in on October 24. Bees are very light in stores, and placing them in win-

ter quarters early may save many a colony. To keep them in long confinement, these three points are necessary: First, place them in the repository before the frost gets in the hive or approach of cold weather; second, the temperature should be kept at 40 or 45 degrees above zero, either by natural or artificial heat (mine is natural); third, they must never be so disturbed as to break their cluster when in winter quiet or hibernated.

From The Bee-Keepers' Review.

Injurious Effects of Moisture Easily Avoided.

R. L. TAYLOR.

So far as I have been able to discover, there is nothing that would lead me to suppose that moisture affects the welfare of bees in any respect differently from the manner in which it operates upon the well-being of the larger animals. The problem involved in "Moisture" seems to me not to be a difficult one if we remember two facts; viz., that heat expels moisture; and that moisture furnishes an excellent medium for the escape of heat. So, it is evident that, in the discussion of this question, these two elements must be taken as interdependent; that is, what might be an injurious amount of moisture in one case might be perfectly harmless in another, owing to the existence of a higher temperature.

And it is plain that this matter of heat presents two aspects; viz., the internal heat, so to speak, of the clustered colony, and the temperature of the surrounding atmosphere. Each should be taken as complementary of the other—the higher the one the lower the other may be permitted to be. The well-fed, fat and vigorous ox throws off the moisture left on his sleek hide by a shower, in clouds of vapor, even in a low temperature; while an ox of low vitality, ill-fed and lean, in the same temperature would remain wet and shivering; but if the temperature were sufficiently raised he would throw off the moisture equally as well as did the other in the lower temperature. We must recognize the same distinction between strong, healthy colonies of bees and those weak in numbers and vitality. While I say this, I do not think there is anything to fear from the moisture of any ordinary atmosphere. There is no danger from moisture in

the dampest of cellars, only it will not answer to arrange the hives and their trappings so as to collect the moisture. If there is much moisture, the temperature must be under control and kept well up; and the hives so arranged as to favor the expulsion of the moisture. All that is necessary in order to guard against any ill effects, even from a saturated atmosphere, is well-fed colonies of fair strength, in well ventilated hives, kept in a temperature of from 45° to 50°.

A cellar can scarcely be so dry that moisture will not drip down the inside of the hive if the temperature be low; and while this indicates too little warmth, it is not necessarily injurious. The important point is to keep the moisture out of the cluster; hence it follows that the fact that the moisture is so great that mould gathers on the comb is not in itself any proof that the conditions are unfavorable to the well-being of the bees.

Having had considerable experience with both damp and dry cellars, I am firm in the belief that there is nothing to fear from the effects of atmospheric moisture, if one only bears in mind the principles above hinted at; providing the conditions indicated which will enable the bees to drive that moisture away from the cluster.

Lapeer, Mich., Nov. 9, 1888.

EXHIBITING AT FAIRS.

D. CHALMERS.

I didn't exhibit at any but the Mornington Township Fair this fall, held at Milverton, but at it I made things as interesting as possible. I took a number of combs of honey and the extractor along, and extracted the honey right there to show people how the honey is taken, as a great many think that we still break up the combs to get the honey. The visitors were allowed to weigh a full comb and afterwards an extracted one, and it was laughable to see how the empty comb would fly up when given into their hands, they being prepared for a weight of course. I also had a few scales of wax as they come from the bee, to help them to understand the profit of extracting, besides destroying the comb.

Poole, Ont., Nov. 4th, 1888.

Michigan State Bee-Keepers' Association.

Clinton, Nov. 9. 1888.

The 23rd annual meeting of this association will be held in this city of Jackson, Mich., on Dec. 12 and 13, 1888.

Meetings will be held in the City Council Room. Greatly reduced rates have been secured at the Hurd House, also at the Commercial House (near Mich. Central depot) at \$1.50 and \$1 per day. A program is being prepared and from the excellent papers already promised, we expect a very interesting meeting.

Any bee-keeper having anything new and useful and finding it impossible to be present, can send it by express to Jackson in care of the Secretary who will place it on exhibition and return it as per orders. Plenty of room to exhibit. Please come and bring your bee-keeping friends with you.

H. D. CUTTING, Sec.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRIES.

REPORT FOR ONTARIO, NOV. 1st, 1888.

BEEES AND HONEY.—The season has been very discouraging to apiarists. The loss of colonies in the winter has hardly been made up by swarming, and the flow of honey in most cases was barely sufficient for actual need of the bees, as there was a scarcity of nectar, especially from clover, owing to the drouth. The wet, cold and cloudy weather also kept the bees confined to their hives many days during the fall. Much of the honey is of poor quality, being dark in color, as the greater part of the surplus was procured from buckwheat. While a few bee-keepers claim a surplus varying from five to forty pounds, by far the greater number report an absolute deficit, and state that ten or twelve pounds of honey, or its equivalent, must be fed back to the bees during the winter to keep the colonies from starving. However, no disease is reported.

Report for County Renfrew, 1888.

	Spring.	Fall.	Crop.	Kind.
D. McCallum, Renfrew,	7	12	{ 2000lbs.	Comb.
Strained is from 3 hives.			{ 100	" Strain'd
He smothered his bees.				
John Park, Renfrew,	1	2	45	"
F. Saunders, Admaston			3	45
Post Office,	1			"
H. A. Schultz, Clontarf,	23	50	{ 2000	" Extr'd.
Post Office,			{ 300	" Comb.
R. Drysdale, Renfrew,				
had a first swarm from				
two only, sold one to				
D. Carswell,	4	5	28	" Comb.
D. Carswell, Carswell,				
P. O., McNab,			1	23 " Comb.

Yours, &c.
R. DRYSDALE.

Western Fair, London, Ont.

Apiarian Department—Display of Comb Honey in most marketable shape—Produce of one apiary, 1888.

Display of Extracted Honey in most marketable shape. 1st, J. W. Whealy.

Display of Comb Honey in most marketable shape by a Lady, produce of her own apiary in 1888. 1st, Mrs. R. H. Smith; 2nd, Mrs. John Rudd.

Display of Extracted Honey in most marketable shape by a Lady, produce of her own apiary. 1st, Mrs John Rudd.

Comb Honey not less than 20 lbs., quality to govern. 1st, J. W. Whealy; 2nd, R. H. Smith; 3rd, John Rudd.

Extracted Honey not less than 20 lbs. in glass, quality to govern. 1st, J. F. Welsh; 2nd, J. W. Whealy; 3rd, Mrs. R. H. Smith.

Best Granulated Honey in glass not less than 10 lbs. 1st, Mrs. John Rudd.

Crate Comb Honey not less than 20 lbs., in best shape for shipping and retailing. 1st J. W. Whealy; 2nd, Mrs John Rudd.

Best Colony of Bees. 1st, Mrs. John Rudd.

Best display of Queens. 1st, Mrs. John Rudd; 2nd, J. W. Whealy.

Best Marked Queen Bee bred in Canada. 1st, Mrs. John Rudd; 2nd, R. H. Smith, 3rd, J. W. Whealy.

Greatest variety of Queens, Mrs. John Rudd.

Bees-Wax, not less than 10 lbs. 1st, Will Ellis.

Comb Foundation for surplus honey. 1st, Will Ellis; 2nd, E. L. Goold & Co.

Comb Foundation for brood-chamber. 1st, E. L. Goold & Co.; 2nd, Will Ellis.

In this department the Society adopted the expert, Single Judge System; Mr. S. T. Pettit acted alone, being appointed by the Middlesex Bee-Keepers' Association.

FOREIGN.

From Bienen Zeitung.

TRANSLATED.

Honey as a Remedy for the Sick.

Many consider honey as a more or less agreeable delicacy only, yet unjustly. To the home of the bee-keeper, honey is not a mere

delicacy, it is to him sugar and butter, and is to him even better than this, an easily digested and highly nutritious article of diet. Honey is turned almost entirely to blood and leaves no waste matter to be carried off by the system.

Further honey to suffering humanity is a remedy. From earliest ages honey has won for itself this reputation, and this reputation is carried down to the present day, that honey has so many medical properties as flowers and plants have given from their juices to produce it.

Wherein then lies the particular power of honey? It works directly and indirectly; directly in so far as it comes in contact with the diseased organs in the mouth, neck, throat and stomach. It acts here chiefly as an anti-septic chiefly on account of the formic acid. It also has the power of softening tissue that through catarrh is swollen and hardened. Indirectly the honey acts in that it is an easily digested and especially nourishing food, corrects malnutrition and bolts the door to disease.

Honey belongs to the fat producers, as in consumption the patient soon becomes very thin, therefore in the battle against this disease honey deserves every consideration. Honey therefore on grounds before given will act as a heat producer and is excellent to keep up the required heat.

Important indeed is honey as a regulator of the stomach. It acts as a very mild purgative. Other remedies, rhuebard root, &c., it will be said will also act, but strong purgatives weaken the stomach, and they gradually lose their power to act. Sugar takes the place of honey which greatly lacks formic acid. A weakening of the stomach by continuous use of honey is never to be feared. Should honey lose its action its use may be discontinued for a short time.

J. B. KELLEN.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Auburndale, O., Nov. 2nd, 1888.

Yours reached me on the 31st. I got home "safe and sound" on the 23rd ult., and my "traps and calamities" amounting to 2480 lbs. were here the next day. I shall try to spend several days with Canadian friends before

and after the convention, if the weather is pleasant. It was just splendid at Columbus.

Streetsville, Ont., Nov. 26th, 1888.

DEAR SIR:—

I find a train gets into Owen Sound at 1.15 p. m., so I think we are safe in announcing the meeting at 2 and 7 p. m. on the 8th; and 9 a. m. and 1 p. m. on the 9th. I purpose sending out Rail Road Certificates and invitation circulars to all the members about the middle of Dec.

Yours,
W. COUSE, Sec'y.

The following communication has been sent to us.

DEAR SIR:

I send you per sample post, samples of "Ceresino" (refined earth wax, substitute for bees wax) on behalf of the manufacturers, Messrs. Compes & Co., Dusseldorf. This material which is no doubt known to you is used very largely in Europe and United States as a substitute for making honey combs. Amongst others Messrs. Schultz of Germany are large customers of my friends. I presume this article will be of interest to you and would be glad to receive your orders. This "Ceresino" is guaranteed by the manufacturers to be made of very best quality of "Ozokerite" and absolutely free from all adulterations, resin, paraffin, &c.

We at once wrote the firm explaining why such could not take the place of bees wax, and would be a fraud if used in its place, we asked them if they knew the melting point of this article and of wax. We have never received a reply. Care should be taken to get absolutely pure wax, it would almost puzzle an expert to tell without testing the sample of Ceresino sent us from bees wax.—ED.

DEAR SIR:—When I read your letter in the August No. of C. H. P. I said to myself I must ask you whether you had ever tried Grims' haves Apifuge for bee stings. Perhaps it is not necessary for you to use any remedy. I have used everything I ever heard of as being good for bee stings, and must say I never found anything come up to the Apifuge. It relieves the pain in a very few minutes; there

is no swelling and soon all signs of the sting is gone. I have tried it for myself and our hired girl, also for a little nephew who is very susceptible to the poison. The first time he was stung on the leg; and very soon after applying the Apifuge he felt nothing more of it. A few days afterwards he stepped on a bee or bees at the creek and was stung in two places on the sole of his foot, so he ran to me calling out "Aunt Nettie, I want some of your Bee medicine," the foot looked quite red and was beginning to swell, but in a few minutes after applying the Apifuge it was well. His mother told me that when he was stung on the foot before he was not able to put his shoe on for two or three days.

I hope you have more honey at Brantford than we have at Campbellford. There is no buckwheat within easy reach of my bees, and that seems to be the only blossom yielding anything worth speaking of, except some dandelions.

Most of my colonies have enough to winter on but that is about all. I sowed a small patch of Melisa this spring to try it, and find it an excellent honey plant, standing the drouth remarkable well. Sown in rows three feet apart, the plants branch out so as to completely cover the ground and they have been a mass of bloom since the 30th of July and are so still and alive with bees from early in the morning till late in the evening. The plant and blossom too has a delicious perfume scenting the air for a considerable distance. In the length of time it continues in bloom it seems preferable to the Chapman honey plant which this year, perhaps owing to the dryness of the weather only lasting for 10 days.

HENRIETTA F. BULLER.

Campbellford, August 30th, 1888.

The Apifuge has an excellent reputation, and we are pleased that you find it satisfactory. We do not use anything now for bee stings. With us the Chapman honey plant lasted from close of linden bloom to frost this year.—ED.

DEAR SIR:

From twelve good colonies I took over seven hundred lbs. of light comb honey; it was mostly from thistle. When wheat harvest opened the hives were empty. I have plenty for winter.

JOHN BURREL.

Onondaga, Nov. 2nd, 1888.

I believe it is a good plan to have *brief* essays, confined to so many words. Let us get the *time* for the next meeting fixed as soon as possible, so that other societies may know when it comes and make arrangements accordingly, and have every thing in readiness at the earliest possible moment.

A. B. MASON.
Pres. International.

CONVENTION NOTICES.

Streetsville, Nov. 24th, 1888.

The O. B. K. A. Annual Meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, market buildings, Owen Sound, on the 8th and 9th of January, 1889. All members are respectfully requested to be present. We expect to get reduced rates on Railroads as usual. Any persons wishing the R. R. Certificates can have one by notifying me.

Yours truly,
W. COUSE, Sec'y.

The Brant Bee-Keepers' Association will hold a meeting at the Court House, Brantford, on Saturday, Dec. 29th, at 2 p. m.—Election of Officers for the ensuing year will take place; representatives chosen for the coming meeting of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association; and reports of the last season are earnestly requested either to be given in person or by postal to the Secretary, as these reports of members have to be sent in by Dec. 31st, or the affiliation cancelled. Ladies are particularly invited.

R. F. HOLTERMANN,
Sec'y-Treas., Brantford.

Answers to Queries for December.

No. 52. Can you tell if a colony is about to starve in the cellar? If so what are the symptoms? What had I better do in such a case?

It is not easy to be certain whether bees in the cellar are dying from starvation, old age, diarrhoea, unless you open the hive and examine them, but if you find them without stores and dying off, put them on a stand where you can feed them, give them a little warm honey every day for a week, or until they have enough to carry them through till Spring.—Dr. Duncan, Embro.

Yes,—by its weight, and the bees falling to the bottom and clogging the entrance. Put feed on the top and warm up if partly dead.—D. P. Niven, Dromore, Ont.

When bees are about to starve they usually leave the centre of the brood nest and cluster on the lower end of the frames right at the entrance of the hive. Of course I mean when the temperature is sufficiently high to admit of it. Another sign is the casting out of dead bees which show no signs of disease or old age; but these signs may not and are not always present.—G. W. Demaree, Christianburg, Ky.

I am not sure that I ever diagnosed such a case. If I found one I think I would give them comb honey.—Dr. C. C. Miller, Maringo, Ills.

Yes, if you examine them every day. When their stores are all gone the bees begin to come out at the entrance and attach themselves to the bottom board and sides of the hive. Sprinkle with warm sugar syrup and then supply with sealed combs; this is for colonies in the cellar. After you have had a few cases of this kind you will be much more careful to see that every colony has abundant stores in the fall.—Robert H. Shipman, Cannington, Ont.

Yes.—They crawl out at the entrance with wings spread out, also over the front of the hive. Feed honey in the comb placed at the side of brood nest or granulated sugar syrup. Close entrance, cover with wire screen and remove to a warm room until revived.—Ira Orvis, Whitby, Ont.

When a colony is just at the point of starvation a few bees will hang scattered about the entrance with their wings well extended. At this stage the colony may be saved by sprinkling the cluster with thin syrup quite warm, and then by feeding them plentifully as soon as they revive.—R. L. Taylor, Lapeer, Mich.

If on examination the bees are found to be dying, they are probably starving. If combs of sealed honey are at hand they may be supplied to such stocks. No careful Bee-Keeper will allow his bees to come to this condition.—L. C. Root, Stamford, Conn.

There are no symptoms or outside indications to tell that a colony is about to starve in a cellar. See that they have plenty of stores before they are put in, if however upon examination you find a colony about to starve feed them in any ordinary way.—Frank A. Eaton, Bluffton, Ohio.

The symptoms of starving bees are the

same in the cellar as out of doors. Many bees will be seen slowly crawling out of the hive. In the cellar, great numbers of bees will be found on the cellar bottom beneath the hive, and if many hives are standing close together it is not easy to tell which one it is, unless the bees are seen running out.—Dr. G. L. Tinker, Ohio.

Only by examination. *Symptoms, no honey in hive.* Feed as given in my book.—E. L. Pratt, Marlboro, Mass.

1, Yes. 2, Uneasiness, breaking up of cluster and crawling slowly about, and out of the hive. 3, Give sealed combs of honey, or feed good candy.—A. B. Mason Auburndale, Ohio.

As I have never wintered in cellars I know nothing experimentally of the matter, but I can see no reason why a colony should be "about to starve in the cellar," if properly prepared before being put in its winter repository. An ounce of prevention in the Fall, in the way of ample stores is worth a thousand theories as to symptoms of starvation and means of relief.—J. E. Pond, North Attleboro.

If you keep good watch of them you can, you will see them slowly crawling about at the entrance of hive. If they are in the top tier raise up the mat and lay a frame of honey over tops of frames. It is best to pour a little warm honey on them at first. If in lower tiers work a little warm honey in at the entrance until they begin to feed, then lay some broken combs on the alighting boards close to the entrance.—C. W. Post, Murray, Ont.

No. Great numbers of bees falling on the bottom board. Feed good candy.—D. Chalmers, Poole, Ont.

Only by the weight of the hive. Give them combs of honey.—A. D. Allen, Tamworth.

You will find bees crawling about the entrance in a weakly condition. Make a candy and put on the top of the frames.—W. Couse, Streetsville.

When a stock of bees (not colony) are starving, an unusual number of dead bees will be in and about the entrance; their small drawn up appearance will tell the hungry condition. Remove the stock at once to a warm room, darken the windows and light a lamp and place it near the hive.

Sprinkle them with warm diluted honey.—(Sugar will harden on the bees and give trouble.) In ten minutes sprinkle again, a third sprinkling may be necessary to thoroughly revive them. Now feed in the ordinary way sufficient to carry them through; give good candy.—S. T. Pettit, Belmont, Ont.

I have observed that when a colony is about to starve in the cellar they seem uneasy, and many crawl out of the hive. You might lay some sticks of the nice bee candy made by E. L. Gould & Co., on top of the frames under the quilt.—Miss H. F. Buller, Cambellford, Ont.

If you mean "can we tell by simply looking at a colony" we answer, no. 2nd, If you understand your hives as you ought to—by weighing them you will find them too light. 3rd, Feed "good" candy—J. & R. H. Myers, Stratford, Ont.

You can tell by careful watching, a few will be seen dead in front, others in all stages and at front and sides of the hive; they may be too far gone to take a solid cake of sugar. In such a case sprinkle thin sugar syrup or honey over them and when they revive put a comb of honey in cluster, or sugar candy for bees or cake. If you have to disturb other colonies perhaps you had better leave them alone.—Ed.

No. 53. Is buckwheat honey good for wintering. Buckwheat honey is as good as any for wintering.—Dr. Duncan, Embro.

I should judge so but have not tried it.—D. P. Niven.

Yes, just as good as any here.—G. W. Demaree.

I think so.—Dr. C. C. Miller.

Have had very little experience with it, but do not consider it equal to clover or linden.—Robt. H. Shipman.

Do not know.—Ira Orvis.

Yes.—R. L. Taylor.

I prefer early gathered honey but I have wintered bees successfully with such honey many times.—L. C. Root,

Yes, but not as desirable as early white honey.—Frank A. Eaton.

Yes.—Dr. G. L. Tinker.

Yes.—E. L. Pratt.

Yes.—A. B. Mason.

I do not know of any reason why pure buckwheat honey is not as safe a winter food

as any. I should have no hesitation in risking it.—J. E. Pond.

Yes, first class.—C. W. Post.

If well ripened and mostly capped.—D. Chalmers.

I have one apiary in a buckwheat district and will risk it with that honey. I think it is safe.—A. D. Allen.

I never had bees winter on buckwheat so I do not know.—W. Couse.

Yes, if it is pure buckwheat honey, but we should not forget that honey-dew is sometimes stored at about the same time and would be pretty sure to give trouble.—S. T. Pettit.

I should say buckwheat honey would be good enough to winter on. The great point is to have well ripened and sealed stores. That is why honey gathered early in the season is the best, and not because the nectar from one kind of flower is more wholesome than another for the bees.—Miss H. F. Buller.

Yes.—J. & R. H. Myers.

We always thought so but may be mistaken; there has been some strong evidence given upon this subject in the Bee-Keepers' Review of last month.—Ed.

No. 54. Will dry sugar answer to winter on, providing I keep a moist sponge at the entrance of the hive?

Dry sugar will not answer very well, better make it into candy or syrup, and feed the candy by placing it above the cluster on the frames, and the syrup in a feeder on an empty card of comb laid on the top of hive.—Dr. Duncan, Embro.

Have not tried it, and would not like to try it.—D. P. Niven.

No, unless it is fed when it is warm enough for the bees to fly in the open air.—G. W. Demaree.

I would not risk it.—Dr. C. C. Miller.

No experience, but should say it would be a decided failure.—Robt. H. Shipman.

Never tried it.—Ira Orvis.

I have never tried it.—R. L. Taylor.

No.—L. C. Root.

No.—Frank A. Eaton.

Have not tried it. Should prefer a mixture of powdered sugar and honey placed over the frames where feeding of this kind is necessary. A solid block of candy on the frames does very well. Do not think a moist sponge

would aid bees to eat dry sugar; I am at a loss to know what object there can be in feeding dry sugar.—Dr. G. L. Tinker.

No.—E. L. Pratt.

Should think not. Bees are not like people; they don't wash down their "vittles" with water.—A. B. Mason.

I do not believe it will. The moist sponge at entrance of hive will be of no use when too cold for the bees to break the cluster. It is far better to stick to the old plan and not try new ones that are not well proved to be safe.—J. E. Pond.

I have had no experience in that line, would guess no.—C. W. Post.

No.—D. Chalmers.

I think not.—A. D. Allen.

Never fed dry sugar.—W. Couse.

I do not know, I never had time nor thought it of any real value to experiment in that line.—S. T. Pettit.

Do not think it will, but I have never tried it. Any one wishing to succeed as a Bee-Keeper must do things at the right time. For instance any colonies short of stores should be fed as early as practicable in the Fall, after they cease to gather for themselves.—Miss H. F. Buller.

Would not risk it. Make your sugar into "good" candy.—J. & R. H. Myers.

Do not know. In England dry sugar we believe is extensively used for feeding and it is claimed, with success; their climate however is moist. We should think the sponge with water would start bees to breed. Do not think bees care to sponge for a living.—Ed.

QUERIES FOR JANUARY.

No. 55.—My cellar is damp, the walls have drops of water upon them, the bees appear all right, can I risk leaving them alone?

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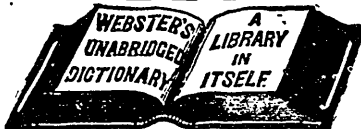
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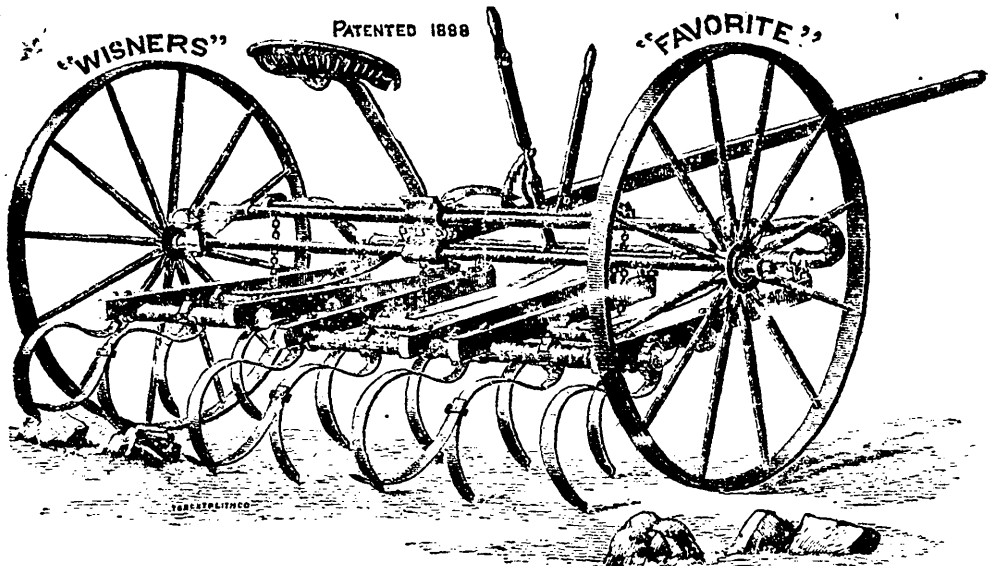
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