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BRANTFORD, ONT., SEPTEMBER, 1902.

WHOLE No.  
451.

## Annual Meeting

BEE - KEEPERS'  
ASSOCIATION  
OF ONTARIO

### SECOND DAY—EVENING SESSION.

The President: The time has come for me to vacate the chair. I wish to thank the members of the Association for the kindness shown to me and the support they have given me while in the chair. The order we have had has been the best and I hope my successor will have just as good order and that through the year before us we will run along in just as smooth a way as we have been running, and let one try to work for each other's interests. With these few words I present to you the new President, J. D. Evans. (Applause.)

Mr. Evans (President elect): Ladies gentlemen and members of the Bee-keepers' Association, I have to thank you each for the confidence you have had in me in placing me to look after the Ontario bee-keepers for the incoming year. I accept the office with great diffidence and I remember how many eminent men have filled the position. I have some doubts as to whether I shall be able to keep up the record, whether apostolic succession will be equal to those who have gone before; therefore, I have some doubts as to

whether I shall be able to discharge my duties. I have still more doubts when I remember the modesty of the first Vice-President, and the efforts he made to keep out of office. If a gentleman of the ability of my friend Armstrong hesitates to take office, surely myself and all the past ex-Presidents must have a great deal of brass when we accept the position without any diffidence whatever. I am encouraged to believe, however, that we will have the support of all our brother bee-keepers, and that we will get along successfully during the coming year. I am pleased to see the Association is prospering, and I am glad to say that better feeling is prevailing. There was a time when the bee-keepers stung each other very much, but now they are getting more like the Italian bees, they are becoming gentle and easy to handle.

A voice: Long tongues.

Mr. Evans: Yes, I must confess, after sitting here during the last couple of days, that bee-keepers are developing long-tongues. I think it may be part of my duty to shorten those tongues so that the time of the Association will not be taken up with too long discussions. But believing I will have the support of the Association in the coming year, I take this office with the best intention of making this Association a success. I trust when we meet at Barrie next year we will have a good convention

and everything will go on charmingly. (Applause.)

Mr. Armstrong: I suppose after I receive 12 months schooling with the President the brass will be all right. (Laughter).

President Evans called upon Mr. Couse to read a paper on "How one man alone managed 500 colonies for comb honeys in out-apiaries," by Mr. Hutchinson of Flint, Michigan, who, unfortunately, could not be present at the convention.

Mr. Couse read the paper as follows:

HOW ONE MAN ALONE MANAGED 500  
COLONIES FOR COMB HONEY  
IN OUT-APIARIES.

My Canadian Friends,—I had hoped and expected to be with you at this convention, but, when at the Buffalo meeting, not dreaming of a confliction of dates, I promised to attend the meeting of the Minnesota State Beekeepers' Convention, which is now in session. The Chicago meeting which I had hoped to attend, is also now in session. Hoping that I may be with you next year, I will now proceed to tell how one man, alone, Mr. Chas. Keoppen, formerly of this place, but now in Virginia, managed 500 colonies, for comb honey, in out-apiaries.

He bought bees and increased them, and built up to 500 colonies under difficulties that would have discouraged any ordinary mortal. Almost his first experience was that of buying 30 colonies of bees, for \$300.00, and seeing them die of foul brood the next year. He was green at the business and did not know enough about this disease to recognize it. The bees were in chaff hives, and, by the way, he continued to use those hives as long as he remained in Michigan. He disinfected them with a strong solution of carbolic acid; I don't know how strong, but he said that in ate the splinters off the broom with which it

was applied. I presume my friend McEvoy would say that this precaution was unnecessary. Be that as it may, foul brood has never developed in those hives since they were thus treated.

After getting some experience, and a few crops of honey, his enthusiasm and confidence became such that he bought bees, largely going into debt for some of them. Then poor seasons came on, and not only did the bees that were expected to pay for themselves, fail to store any honey, but had to be fed both spring and fall. In one instance he fed the bees in the spring to keep them from starving and cared for them all through the summer, only to find that they must be fed in the fall, and, rather than do this, he let them go back to the man of whom he had bought them, losing his time and spring feed. It was under such discouragements that he worked away and built up five out-apiaries of nearly 100 colonies in each. Then came good seasons, and he was able to buy houses and lots and put money in the bank.

The wonderful thing about this is that he has done all the work alone with his own hands. Briefly, his methods are as follows: He winters most of his bees out of doors protected with chaff. He waits until as late as possible in the fall, sets hives in a long row, with boards at the back and front, then packs hives in chaff, putting two inches in front, three or four at the back, and five or six on the top, covering with shade-boards, covers, or wax proof building paper. Some of the colonies are in the chaff hives mentioned, but he does not like them as they are too expensive, and being ing and heavy to handle to the advantage.

In the spring the bees are looked over, stores equalized, and all

combs removed, the bees being crowded up on as few combs as possible. When the packing is removed, each alternate hive is moved ahead a little ways, and the other hives moved back a little, and then in a few days the distances are increased until the hives are sufficiently scattered. As soon as the bees are crowded for room the combs are spread and empty combs are put in the centre. This is usually done for the first time just before the harvest from white clover. A week or ten days later the colonies are again gone over, and the combs of sealed brood in the centre shifted to the outside; the outside combs that are largely filled with honey, being moved to the centre of the brood nest. At the opening of the bass wood flow the brood nests are again overhauled, and this shifting process gone through with; but, in many instances, in fact almost instances, that is, if the colony is strong enough, two combs of bees and brood are taken away and used in starting a nucleus, their places in the centre of the brood nest being filled with empty combs. Each nucleus is furnished with a queen cell, the quantity of which will be found in any overhauling the colonies. The empty combs that are placed in the centre of the brood nest at the last overhauling, are usually filled, to a great extent with honey; but as the flow begins to slack up, the honcombs will be removed and used in starting what sections may be on the next day. It is astonishing how a colony so treated will go on finishing the sections after the flow from bass wood is over.

With this management there is a little swarming, and as the bees are clipped, the swarm always comes, and usually the queen gets into her own hive. If she does not the fact is shown at the next examination. Mr. Koeppen says

that if he can get around and examine each colony as often as once a week there is practically no swarming. Upon reaching an apiary, if there is not time to go over the whole number of colonies, the strongest ones are selected for that purpose.

Comparing one location with another, Mr. Koeppen believes that it is more profitable to keep not more than 50 colonies in one location. None of his apiaries are nearer each other than three miles. His principal honey resources are white and alsike clovers, and basswood. One of his apiaries was located near a river-bottom, and he often secured 25 lbs. of surplus in the fall, from this yard, when nothing was secured from the others.

During the last three years that he was in Michigan he secured on an average each year 20,000 pounds of comb honey.

His wife was a Virginia girl, and she persuaded him to move to her old home, else I presume he would still be piling up comb honey in Michigan.

W. Z. HUTCHISON,  
Flint, Mich.

In the absence of Mr. Gemmell the President called on Mr. Holmes to open the discussion on the paper.

Mr. Holmes: Will you kindly excuse me?

The President: We will consider the question open for discussion from any quarter.

Mr. Hall: Mr. Hall is not capable of managing 500 colonies of bees for comb honey. I would like to hear from someone that is. I am behind the age, I am not up to that. Perhaps I am too old; perhaps I am too lazy.

Mr. Frith: My experience is that our larger bee-keepers are gradually moving away from the large quantities of bees, but if a man can overtake 500 colonies and do it himself well

and good. I met with a man, when we were sent down to Ottawa, who had 2,000 colonies of bees in the State of Maine and partly in Canada. It has always been a mystery to me how these could be managed profitably.

Mr. Dickenson: Listening to the paper read by our Secretary regarding the gentleman in Michigan managing five apiaries of 100 colonies each, I would say that it is too much to expect. I know something about the management of one apiary and I would not undertake, no, if I never got a pound of honey, to manage that myself; I simply say it is too much to expect any man to do.

Mr. Hall: I can manage 200 colonies of bees if you let me prepare for them in winter and give me a horse when I wish, but I tell you the sweat runs out of me very often and I wouldn't attempt to manage any more, and the man that can manage 500 colonies of bees alone I think is in a dream.

Mr. Miller: Those who take the Review will probably remember this same article was published in it about three or four years ago, and I assure Mr. Hall it is no dream. It seems to me he had that system that he had everything prepared and as the season advanced in the way of supering and taking off the honey, he did nothing but put them on and remove them and keep down swarming.

Mr. Hall: That manipulation will keep him busy all the time without any other work.

Mr. Holtermann: He would have to have in stock about 1500 comb honey supers with foundation that he wouldn't know whether he was going to use that season or not. There are a great many points that when you go into the details it seems to me utterly impracticable.

Mr. Miller: If a man is going to keep 500 colonies it doesn't matter

what amount of super room he requires, it should be provided.

Mr. Holmes: Like the other gentlemen who have expressed their views on this matter, so far as managing an average sized apiary is concerned, I entertain no serious objections, but when it comes to managing 500 colonies of bees, if I had 500 I would certainly hire a foreman and retire from the business. I entertain very serious objections to managing that many myself. I love to see beautiful figures on paper. Someone has intimated that the man was dreaming. I hope not.

The President: If the gentleman was dreaming I think we had better not disturb his dream.

Mr. Frith moved, seconded by Mr. Brown, that a vote of thanks be tendered to Mr. Hutchinson for the paper he has prepared and that the Secretary be instructed to convey the same to Mr. Hutchinson.—Carried.

#### QUESTION DRAWER—CONDUCTED BY

MR. BROWN, CHARD.

Question 1: Should honey be strained or skimmed?

Mr. Brown: My impression is it should be strained, but in case there should be found any foreign matter floating on top of the honey afterwards, have it skimmed. I strain through cheesecloth: draw it from an extracting can, empty it into another tank covered with cheese cloth and strain it, afterwards I fill it into small cans or bottles as the case may be. I usually find quite a bit of sediment. I consider it pollen or pollen granules or wax down in the bottom of the can; this I would draw off; but I consider we can't get along very well without first straining the honey.

Mr. Dickenson: I want to strain and I want to skim. I want to strain through a finer strainer than cheesecloth.

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cloth to make a nice clear job.

Mr. McEvoy: I am in favor of both skimming and straining. Take a barrel and put cheese cloth over it and slip a hoop around the top tight and then throw a second cheese cloth over that and pour your honey through. After it stands for a week or more there will be a very fine scum gathered on the top; skim that off clear; but all the honey should be carefully strained.

Mr. Brown: Strain first and if necessary skim afterwards.

Mr. Shaver: Does Mr. McEvoy like to leave his honey open for a week or two weeks without canning?

Mr. McEvoy: You mean in barrels?

Mr. Shaver: Yes.

Mr. McEvoy: Yes, I have to. That the shape I am in.

Mr. Shaver: Won't the froth raise less time than that?

Mr. McEvoy: It will, but still after you skim it, in three or four days you will find a little fine scum very thin.

Mr. Shaver: Don't you lose your flavor inside of two weeks?

Mr. McEvoy: You lose a little I admit, but if it is really dead ripe, it so little you will hardly detect it.

Mr. Holmes: There is a point to be guarded in this discussion, it strikes me. The uninitiated might get a wrong idea as to what we are talking of when we are talking about skimming the honey. I think it should be made very plain that what we are talking about is very very small little bubbles that float on the surface of the honey, and not any foreign substance.

Mr. Hall: Tell them it is small particles of honey comb. We have these combs which hold from 8 to 10 pounds of honey and we have to take off the cappings on each side, in doing that they don't all fall to the capping pan.

President: What is that scum

that rises?

Mr. Hall: Pollen and very small particles of honey comb; more of it honey comb than pollen.

Mr. Dickenson: Clearness is a very important thing in extracted honey. Have a clear article so that you can take it up and examine it and see nothing and if you strain through that cheese cloth and I strain through something finer I will beat you every time in clearness.

Mr. Armstrong: If you have got to skim at all why not do away with the strainer. I will tell you how I do: My extractor holds about 120 pounds below the basket. I always keep that pretty well filled up. These small particles are always rising to the top, therefore when I draw it off from the extractor tap below there are very little small particles in it; then I fill my storing can and the honey being warm anything that is left quickly rises to the top. As I understand Mr. McEvoy and some others, they have to skim these small particles, they say froth; I don't like that word; I think it is just the small particles of comb and it rises to the top what ever little there is, and after it goes through the strainer I just fill my tanks full and I can skim that little particle off. I am not particular about taking quite a depth and I go down deep enough so that I get everything, and my honey comes pretty near the mark. I will ask Mr. Newton if what I sent over to the Pan was not all right.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Armstrong has covered a good deal of the ground of what I was going to say. We adopt his plan nearly altogether and I may say we had some at the Pan too, and I will ask Mr. Newton if he didn't find our honey just as clear as the most that was there and we don't skim; don't find it necessary. It was I who asked that question because I

know there are some that neither skim nor strain. At least, judging from the honey they put on the market you would think so; it is full of bees' wings and legs and various other things. It think it should be at least thoroughly strained.

The President: I have strained but I don't skim; I have about half a dozen extractor pails that I have picked up at sales and I put a strainer cloth on top and tie it with a rope and when I go to fill up my cans I fill them, and the last can or two that comes out I simply strain it again.

Mr. Hall: Gentlemen, I have a tank that only holds 350 pounds and when I take from six to nine hundred pounds in a day it has to go through that tank. I use a strainer simply to catch these particles of comb or a fly that might get into it. If I have lots of time to let it rise I wouldn't give anything for a strainer; I strain it so that I can can it and get it home. I prefer to can my honey up immediately after extracting it, or after it is clear, to keep the aroma. If you want better than that kindly use green baize, which they make fiddle bags of. But my friend, Post, never strains his honey and he gets lots of prizes. I don't care how you strain your honey you will have some sediment at the bottom. When I get down to thirty or forty pounds I put that by itself; I do something else with that honey besides giving it to the public.

Mr. Holtermam: I just want to say in the first place that there is a wrong impression about pollen rising to the top; the wax scales are of an oily nature, and lighter and will float, but pollen grains will certainly go to the bottom. Now in the next place there is this discussion about being able to tell by the extractor when the can is

full, and the advisability of having a hoop to raise it. There is a much better way. Have a frame that rests on top of the can and the square opening in the centre of it. Now have your cloths on a square frame to conform to the size of that, and that frame rests on the edge, the cloth hangs through and just as you pour your honey in you need not raise a hoop or anything else; you can tell just exactly when the can is full.

Mr. Dickenson: There are so many ways of straining and some, it appears, are very much in favor of not straining at all. I don't use the cheese cloth. I use a double strainer. I run my honey from a stand and it simply runs through till the 500 pound tank is full; the extractor is constantly running, and it runs through a double strainer of wire. The first strainer is coarse and the next is the finest I can buy—milk strainer wire. If it won't run through fast enough I move my extractor to the next can till that gets run. You can run sometimes an hour at a stretch and then pass to the next.

Question 2: Has anyone ever found foul brood in drone comb, or brood?

Mr. McEvoy: Yes, that is easily found.

Mr. Brown: I think I would be obliged to omit answering that because I never saw foul brood in the hive yet to know it.

Question 3: Have you heard of Mr. Armstrong's eye-water?

Mr. Armstrong: That is a kind of surprise party to me. I didn't think I was doing any business along that line. Perhaps the person who put in that question would rise on his feet and tell us something about it.

Mr. Trender: I had very sore eyes and Mr. Armstrong advised me

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to take a drop of honey, warm it in a spoon, and drop a drop into each eye, and my eyes have been cured completely.

Question 4: Has anyone got watermelon honey?

Mr. Brown: We don't grow watermelons extensively enough in our district to know whether the bees work on them or not.

Mr. Fixter: They will work on watermelon all right if there is an opening made for them. When they are testing watermelons at the experimental farm they have to get inside a building that the bees won't crowd around them.

Mr. Trender: That is a bad thing for bees. With me, they went to work and filled everything up where the brood that had been hatched was, with watermelon honey, and of course the consequence was I didn't know anything about it. This was in the centre all the time and the sealed comb honey was on the outside, and when I came to look at them this spring I found I had lost sixteen swarms with diarrhoea.

Mr. Armstrong came along and said that was what was wrong.

Question 5: What would be a good honey plant to sow on waste land?

Mr. Brown: I would say sweet clover. That is in stoney or waste land. Of course in a wet or damp place I don't think it would succeed.

Mr. Evans: Sometimes it grows on the flats of the Humber not far from me. It will grow in wet places.

Mr. Roberts: I find that alsike clover grows better than anything; I have found it in low, damp ground.

Mr. Couse: I think as Mr. Brown said, there is nothing like sweet clover in waste ground. If you can find ground that will take it you can sow it once and that is all you need.

I knew a man that sowed some about

twenty years ago. That clover is there still, and not only there but it is following the wagons all over the country to waste places. To get rid of the sweet clover you only need to plow, that is all. I pass a place fifteen or twenty times a day near my home where sweet clover has floated down the creek and got in it and spread over the whole place. A man plowed the place for a potato patch and now there is no clover in that. I have often thought of Muskoka; there is a great deal of waste ground there and if a man were to go there after a fire and sow his sweet clover in waste places I believe he could get lots of honey and shoot deer and live on it. I'll tell you a man that I think is going to go, our friend Pirie, of Drumquin. He is always talking of going to Muskoka and sowing sweet clover and shooting deer.

Mr. Smith: I have had a little experience in sowing sweet clover in Muskoka. If you get in the unsettled districts you may succeed, but the cows run through the bush and just as soon as the sweet clover grows up it is eaten off. We find in our locality it grows best on gravelly soil, and in one particular place we have a gravel pit. People are drawing gravel from it all the time and it seems to be full of seed and they are scattering it around the country in that way.

Mr. Chrysler: I don't like sweet clover honey to sell except to the trade. I don't like it, and as it is a clear honey it is more likely to be mixed with other and spoil the other clover honey. It will be put on the market as clover honey and it does not correspond with our alsike clover, and I think there is great danger of getting the two things mixed and spoiling the trade.

Mr. Evans: Does sweet clover

actually produce much surplus honey?

Mr. Chrysler: No sir, it does not.

Mr. Couse: Yes, it does.

Mr. McEvoy: Sometimes it does, a good deal.

Mr. Chrysler: My experience has been that take it in the last fifteen years it has been a detriment to us, yielding honey sparingly for a great many years. Just keeping the queen laying and breeding all the honey out, and in the fall we won't have enough. We would have to feed for the winter more than if we hadn't had it. Although this year there has been a surplus gained from it, and one or two years previous to this, taking one year with another, I wouldn't give a fig for it; besides it has damaged my trade if I should neglect to keep it separate.

Mr. Couse: I said yes. I never had much experience in getting a surplus. The simple reason was because we hadn't enough sweet clover. I didn't know exactly what it was until this season, I believed I did. I had an idea that sweet clover had a greenish tinge and I thought I understood the aroma from it. I went to Buffalo and Mr. Hershier showed me honey and I smelled it and I said, what is that? I said if I am right that is sweet clover honey? He said, why yes, it is; that is just exactly what it is. I said do you get much of it? He says yes, that is what we are getting. We have taken all these sections and all this extracted honey from it. That was sweet clover, and he got a large surplus.

Mr. Hall: He had a large field of it.

Mr. Couse: Yes, all around the city of Buffalo. And I understand Chicago is the same way; they get all their honey from sweet clover.

That is the reason Pirie is going to Muskoka.

Mr. Hall: We have not the quality of sweet clover Mr. Couse is talking about them having in Buffalo and Chicago, but some foolish person has scattered some sweet clover both north, east and south of the city of Woodstock that is a perfect curse to me. First they gave me the curse of sowing it. The only benefit I can see that we derive from it is it amuses the bees and keeps them from the stores and from the ladies when they are doing their preserving, but it is a curse to us; there is just sufficient honey in it to keep the queen laying and raising brood, and at the end of the sweet clover bloom they are lighter. We haven't much of it but I certainly wish we had less.

Mr. Evans: That is my idea of it. Not far from me on the flats of the Humber there are probably ten acres of sweet clover. I took a dozen hives of bees there some years ago and they didn't increase five pounds in weight

### Curing Vicious Bees.

The following incident may be of some use to some of your numerous readers who are troubled with vicious bees. It will undoubtedly amuse many who are bee-keepers, if you consider it worth publishing. In June last I called upon a bee-keeper whose bees, especially those belonging to one hive, were in a most furious state, and had been so for some days. As I approached the hive in question, I was at once surrounded by bees, whose well-known "wasp note" could not be misunderstood. They meant, evidently, "a fight to the finish," and as the assertion of the good housewife, who said with special emphasis, "They are positively dangerous," was only too true

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realising the situation (there was a public roadway on one side of the garden), I requested that the bees should not in any way be disturbed, and requested that a bogey-man, or "scare-crow" should be placed near the hives and moved to a different position from day to day, the object being to make them familiar, at least, with the appearance of a human figure. The desired end was attained, not altogether as I anticipated, but on August 14 the owner writes me:—"Your suggestion to put up a hat and coat in front of hive of ill-tempered bees worked wonderfully. All the bad bees evidently stung the hat, which was covered with stings, and we have had no stings since, although going near the hives."—WILLIAM SOLE, in *British Bee Journal*.

### Visit From Mr. Thos. W. Cowan

Ed. C. B. J.,—

I must inform you of a very great surprise and pleasure that happened me on the 9th inst. As I was making a display of bees in an observatory hive, together with charts and mounted specimens, showing the anatomy of the honey bee, and its relationship to the floral kingdom, at our first flower show, I was quietly interesting the visitors, to the best of my ability, in the wonders of the honey bee, when, to my great astonishment, one of the visitors introduced himself as T. W. Cowan, the president of the British Bee-keepers' Association. No one but an enthusiastic bee-keeper can for a moment imagine the extreme pleasure I experienced in meeting this gentleman of such world-wide reputation in all that pertains to the honey bee.

Mr. Cowan gave a resume of the interesting features of the honey bee to our Natural History Society, which

the members appreciated very much. I had the pleasure of driving Mr. Cowan out among the few bee-keepers around Victoria, who were very pleased to meet him, and I believe he enjoyed the beautiful surrounding of our city. Mr. Cowan is visiting the Pacific coast for the benefit of his health, and I trust he may long be spared to carry on his interesting and useful work, unfolding to the world the wonders of our industrious little friend, the bee.

The honey crop will be smaller than usual this year, it is none too large at any time, but this season has been very bad, cold and high winds up to July, then followed drought, practically no rain in Victoria since April, only just a sprinkle; the winds are cold and very drying, were it not for constantly watering there would be very few nice gardens in the city, as it is ours is a "city of flowers," but stop the watering and everything would shrivel up. I think the crop will average about 25 lbs., they run from 15 to 35 lbs. per colony, mine have been from 30 to 50 lbs. with the best of management. As I have stated before, this is no bee paradise. I should feel obliged if you will send me by return the schedule of points used by the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association in judging honey exhibits. I was judge at our exhibition last fall and may accept the office just offered this year, but have almost decided to exhibit myself, so have not accepted yet. I would also thank you for the constitution of the Ontario Association as some of my friends are asking me to form an association here, which perhaps I may do later on.

Yours very truly,

E. F. ROBINSON.

Victoria, B. C., Aug. 25, 1902.

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CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

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**BRANTFORD - CANADA.**

Editor, W. J. Craig.

SEPTEMBER, 1902.

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

Mr. Deadman's "Notes by the Way" are missing from our pages this month through his absence in the west with a car of honey. We wish friend Deadman a pleasant and profitable trip.

The "Australian Bee-keepers' Review," which had ceased for a time to be published, has reappeared under the name of The Farm, Bee and Poultry Review. The editor explains the reason for the cessation was in order to meet the requirements of the law relative to such publications which had not been fully complied with when the Journal was first issued. We are in receipt of a copy and consider it a very fair production. The selections, which are very good, are mostly from American magazines.

Exaggerated reports in the public press recently have been the means of doing an amount of harm to the honey market besides misleading some of the less prominent bee-keepers of Ontario, who have had

a few hundred pounds of honey to dispose of. Perhaps the most mischievous of these so-called crop reports was that published in connection with bulletins of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, which said that "reports from nearly every section of Ontario go to show that the present season has been the best in many years for honey, and present prospects are that prices will be much lower than for several seasons."

We cannot understand why honey should be singled out from among all the crops for the last statement. Many of our readers will have noticed our letters in reference to this report in The Globe and the Mail and Empire, which read as follows:

THE HONEY CROP.

"To the Editor of the Globe: In the bulletin recently issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture and published in the leading newspapers throughout the province, we note the following in connection with the honey crop: "Reports from nearly every section of Ontario go to show that the present season has been one of the best in many years for honey. Present prospects are that prices will be much lower than for several seasons."

Alongside of this we would beg to place the following editorial note from The Canadian Bee Journal of Aug. 1, which should be an authority on this subject, being in touch with the directors of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association, representing the districts of the Province, and with all the leading bee-keepers of the Dominion:

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disappointing one to the majority of bee-keepers. As we have said in our last issue, 'Lots of bloom and nectar,' but the weather did not admit of it being gathered. We have endeavored to obtain faithful reports from directors and others, and so far as we can ascertain throughout the Province of Ontario at least there has been about a good half crop of clover honey. Basswood was a complete failure. Comb will be scarce and poorly filled. When asked about prices we can merely say that we see no reason why they should be lower than last season.'

No doubt there has been a large increase of bees through excessive swarming. This some are pleased to term a good season, but unfortunately it does not mean honey.

Even were the report a correct one, it is our impression that the department has gone considerably 'out of its department' in making the statement that 'present prospects are that prices will be much lower than for several seasons.' This was not said in connection with any of the crops that are really abundant, and through an injustice has been done (unintentionally, no doubt) to the bee-keepers of Ontario."

W. J. CRAIG.

Brantford, Aug. 22.

Here is more trouble along the same line. We have just received the following letter from a neighboring bee-keeper:

to the Editor of the C. B. J.—

I desire, with your permission, to write before the Canadian bee-keepers the methods adopted by the wholesale or commission houses of Toronto and elsewhere, in their attempt to state the price of honey. They are evidently under the impression that the average bee-keeper is very

easily bluffed, and doubtless this impression has been strengthened by past experience and practice. I wish to make known a specific case which came within my own observation recently. One of the leading commission firms of Toronto recently sent out a postal card asking each bee-keeper addressed how much honey he had for sale, and what was his best price in sixty-pound cases, f. o. b. shipping point. I received one of these cards. I replied that I had about 500 pounds, and would dispose of it at 9 cents per lb. This price, after deducting the price of the tin and crating, would leave me 8 cents for my honey. It is my opinion that honey cannot be produced at a fair profit for less than 8 cents per lb. Imagine my surprise when I received in reply the following from the firm referred to. "We have been in correspondence with nearly all the principal apiarists in Ontario, and find that there is a large production of clover honey, and you will require to get your ideas down considerably in order to meet the market. Please say by return mail your very lowest price f. o. b. in 60-lb. tins or in barrels for your lot. We only require a limited quantity, so will accept the lots offered at lowest price of course."

I immediately replied that I would "get my ideas down in the Canadian Bee Journal and denounce their methods and impudent bluffing."

They wanted only a limited quantity and yet write every bee-keeper in the province! The worst feature of this bluff is the fact that the card was not one specially written for me, but was printed on a printing press, or memograph, or other manifold machine, and was evidently sent to all or nearly all who replied to their first card. This demonstrates the method they adopt, first, to learn how much honey there is for sale in

the province, and, secondly, to make the bee-keeper believe there is a big crop, and then bluff him into selling it to them at a low price.

Now, brother bee-keepers, if you do not wish to place yourselves at the mercy of these people, do not in future state to any inquirer how much you have for sale. Rather tell them that you have a limited quantity at so much, and ask them to let you know how much you will send at that price. Don't get scared and be in a hurry. But on no account tell them what you have for sale, and then allow them to total up the entire honey crop of the province.

Why cannot the Bee-keepers' Association arrange for one of their number to locate in Toronto in the fall after the crop is harvested and receive the reports from all the members and others, as to what quantity they have to dispose of, and let all sales be made through him, and refer all inquiries to him. The secret of what your crop is would then be your own affair, and these people would pay your price or go without. This is worth looking into. I shall have something more to say on this later on.

JAS. J. HURLEY.

Brantford, Ont.

No doubt but a good many bee-keepers have snapped at the bait, and it is too bad if they have, yet we cannot altogether blame these business men for securing all the information they can about crops, etc. It is part of their business and bee-keepers and others dealing with them should remember this and govern themselves accordingly. Friend Hurley gives sound advice in the latter part of his letter, so also does H. G. Sibbald on another page, which we

would say to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest.

#### Syrup for Feeding.

Dr. Miller says in a Straw Straw in Gleanings: "I've been trying to learn how thin a syrup bees would take. In a feeder away from the hives I put one part sugar and three parts water; then one of sugar to four of water, and so on. When it came to one of sugar and ten of water, the bees still took it, but were rather lazy about it. They were gathering at the time a little from flowers. In a time of entire dearth of nectar they might take a much weaker solution, and I suspect that when the feeding is done early enough, it may be well to use considerably more water than sugar.

The Editor adds: Yes, I think you are right. The thinner the syrup, up to a certain point, the more thoroughly will the bees digest it, and the less it is liable to candy in the combs in winter. The old rule, to feed three parts of sugar to one of water, for winter feed, was a mistake, and I think that was the cause one winter at least, of our losing bees very heavily. We have never had any sugar syrup candy in combs, containing one part sugar and one part water; but now strikes me that if we feed early enough, as you say, three parts water and one of sugar would give better results still. It would be interesting to know what the proportion of saccharine to water is in ordinary nectar. Can some professor of chemistry tell us?

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### The Prizes at Toronto Exhibition

The honey exhibit is in a special building. The exhibitors are: R. H. Smith, St. Thomas; Geo. Laing, Milton; A. Laing, Burlington, and J. H. Davidson, Unionville; with entries in the 10 lb. lots by A. A. Ferrier, Osceola; W. West, Deer Park, and Granger Bros. As visitors enter the building the impression which most of them receive is that the quantity of past years is absent. The quality of the honey is good; owing to the peculiar flow the quality of comb however, is not quite equal to that of some other years. At the early stage of judging the majority of exhibitors had sold their exhibits, one refused to sell, and the prices obtained were equal to that of last year. The shortage in the exhibits and the prices obtained would not indicate that the honey flow and supply of honey was greater than last season. An exhibit of live bees and talks and demonstrations are being given by Mr. R. F. Holtermann, who has been engaged by the Industrial Exhibition Association for the purpose.

The prizes were awarded as follows:

- Sec. 1—Best and most attractive display of 50 lbs. extracted clover honey: 1st, R. H. Smith, St. Thomas; 2nd, Geo. Laing, Milton.
- Sec. 2—Best and most attractive display of 50 lbs. of extracted granulated linden honey, 1st, Geo. Laing; 2nd, R. H. Smith.
- Sec. 3—Best display of 500 lbs. of liquid extracted honey: 1st Geo. Laing; 2nd, R. H. Smith; 3rd, J. F. Davidson, Unionville; 4th, A. Laing, Burlington.
- Sec. 4—Best 500 lbs. of comb honey sections: 1st, R. H. Smith; 2nd, Geo. Laing; 3rd, J. F. Davidson.
- Sec. 5—Best 12 sections of comb honey: 1st, J. F. Davidson; 2nd, Geo. Laing; 3rd, R. H. Smith.

Sec. 6—Best 100 lbs. of extracted liquid linden honey in glass: 1st, Geo. Laing; 2nd, R. H. Smith.

Sec. 7—Best 100 lbs. of extracted liquid clover honey in glass: 1st, Geo. Laing; 2nd, J. F. Davidson; 3rd, R. H. Smith.

Sec. 7—Best 10 lbs. extracted liquid honey in glass; 1st, J. F. Davidson; 2nd, Ed. West; 3rd, A. Laing.

Sec. 9—Best 10 lbs. of extracted liquid linden honey in glass—1st, R. H. Smith; 2nd, Geo. Laing; 3rd, A. A. Ferrier.

Sec. 10—Best 10 lbs. of liquid buckwheat honey in glass: 1st, Geo. Laing; 2nd, R. H. Smith.

Sec. 11—Best Beeswax: 1st, R. H. Smith; 2nd, J. F. Davidson; 3rd, A. Laing.

Sec. 12—Best foundation for brood chamber, R. H. Smith.

Sec. 13—Best foundation for sections, R. H. Smith.

Sec. 14—Best exhibit of apiarian supplies, R. H. Smith.

Sec. 15—Best and most practical new invention for the apiarist: 1st, R. H. Smith; 2nd, A. Laing.

Sec. 16—Best six varieties of uses to which honey may be put in preparing articles for domestic use: 1st, R. H. Smith; 2nd, Geo. Laing.

Sec. 17—For the most tasty and neatly arranged exhibit of honey: 1st, R. H. Smith; 2nd, Geo. Laing; 3rd, A. Laing; 4th, J. F. Davidson.

Sec. 18—To the exhibitor taking the largest number of prizes for honey: 1st, R. H. Smith; 2nd, Geo. Laing.

Sec. 19—To the exhibitor showing the best and most originality of design in setting up the display, R. H. Smith (silver medal.)

### The Honey Exhibit at Ottawa.

Some years since the Central Canada Exhibition Association so reduced the prize list as to discourage exhibitors

coming from a distance. That was not their motive, however. Consequently since that all the honey shown here is from the Ottawa Valley. In the "good old days" we had keen competitors from both east and west. One can make a general estimate of the quantity, quality, etc., of honey in this locality by that exhibited. The extracted, good and plentiful; the comb, scarce and but few sections really first-class. The inference is readily drawn. The Ottawa Valley being a linden district, one might count on a good showing in that line if the season is favorable. The fact that the exhibitors had but little indicates a very small flow from the basswood this season. The beeswax, as usual was very choice and, being moulded in a large variety of designs, made a very unique and attractive display. In addition to the honey show there was a large exhibit of bee-keepers' supplies very neatly put up by the Capital Planing Mill Co., of Ottawa. Mr. J. K. Darling is a very painstaking judge and consequently the exhibitors are well-satisfied—something unusual at honey exhibits. The exhibitors were W. J. Brown, winning 3 firsts, 7 seconds and 3 thirds; A. McLaughlin, 8 firsts, 4 seconds, 1 third; R. McLaughlin, 2 firsts, 2 seconds, 2 thirds.

APIS.

### Alsike Clover.

Mr. J. F. Dunn, of Ridgeway, Ont., writes as follows: "I have just read your article in C. B. J. and think I can speak with confidence in the matter of alsike, etc., as my apiary is in the centre of about 1,000 acres, more or less, in alsike. I doubt if anything that could be planted can excel it. Grass peas are plentiful here also. They keeps the bees busy but not enough for surplus. Welland

Co. will give about half a crop. Buckwheat is yielding heavy here now."

Mr. D. Chalmers, of Poole, Ont., referring to this subject in a letter states that Mr. Darling, of Almonte, is in error about alsike giving a second crop. This is the objectionable feature about it for hay and pasture but at the price the seed has been and is now we can overlook this failing. It is this fault that makes me less able to understand why the demand for the seed is so great.

G. A. DEADMAN.

Brussels, Ont.

### Reports of the Crop.

About a week ago there was mailed to each member of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association a circular asking them to report on their honey crop. At this date about one half have reported; from these reports there can be some idea formed as to the crop in the province. 28 report a light crop, 6 of these say equal to, and 22 say less than 2 previous years; 21 report an average crop, 9 of these say equal, 8 better and 4 less than 2 previous years; 11 report a large crop better than 2 previous years; 50 report their bees in as good or better condition than usual.

The greater part of the honey has been gathered from clover, a very little basswood. It is too early for reporting buckwheat and other fall honeys.

From the counties of York, Peel, Halton, Wentworth, Norfolk and Oxford the best reports have come. The summing up of these 60 reports indicate a little less than an average crop of honey, and it is a question if any had reported but that there would have been a greater proportion of light crops, as the majority of persons prefer to report success than otherwise. W. COUSE, Sec.

## Thoughts and Comments

ON CURRENT TOPICS.

By a York County Bee Keeper.

Was much interested in reading Mr. Deadman's article in August issue of C. B. J. As we have had considerable experience with Alsike as a honey plant, as well as growing it for seed, would endorse all Mr. D. has to say about it. I think he has made very conservative statements as to yield per acre, etc., and as to its value as a honey plant, would say that, taking one year with another, bees in our locality would hardly make a living if they had to depend upon any other source for nectar. Some twenty years ago my grandfather sowed a field for his bees; he was quick to see the value of it as a farm crop, and ever since that time it has been grown in this section. This year the average yield per acre of fields near the prairies is from five to nine bushels; scattering fields, two or more miles from the yards, yield from two to four bushels to the acre. Needless to say the farmers here are nearly all great friends of the bees and we have very little fear of our bees being poisoned by syringing, etc. To give our readers, not in alsike districts, some idea as to the amount of honey alsike brings in a community, will give a few figures for 1901. For a number of years we have handled the seed on commission for a firm in Toronto. Last year we shipped them from our nearest station about \$100.00 worth of seed, as the two or three adjoining stations shipped probably as much more each, and as the business we deal with is only one of five in the honey business here, one can easily

form an idea as to what alsike growing means to the farmers. Just a few days ago we shipped out a car load of over 700 bushels, paying over \$4000.00 for the same, which amount was distributed among fourteen farmers, the lots averaging over fifty bushels each. Like everything else, alsike has an unpleasant side to the story as well, it seems to have the propensity of making everybody sick while threshing is in progress, and it is hardly ever the farmer's wife need make much preparation for more than two meals for the men the first day of clover threshing. The writer can speak from experience on this matter, having been so terribly sick more than once that he would solemnly vow "never to go near the stuff again," said vow, by the way, always being broken when next season's crop would come.

Mr. Darling speaks of getting the farmers to grow a "second crop." Don't know if I understand him rightly or not, but in this district alsike when cut for seed rarely throws an after growth, even when cut for hay, unless the first crop is taken off very early the after-growth will amount to but little. In fact that is the principal objection the farmers have in raising it for hay, as, here at least, it will not come on the second time like red clover. In wet seasons, like this year, some fields that were seeded in the spring will blossom quite freely after the grain is taken off, but, although the bees work freely on it, have never seen any results in the supers, probably not enough of it to accomplish that.

"Tropical competition in the honey market."

Considerable has been said lately in "Gleanings" as to the probability of Cuban honey coming into the U.S. market. W. K. Morrison and others think it extremely doubtful that tro-

pical honey will ever be much of a factor in the U. S. market, stating as a reason, the fact that said honey is worth more in the European markets than in America. Be that as it may, just a few weeks ago a shipment of honey from Jamaica (which the consignee told me was of excellent quality) was laid down in Toronto at a figure a little lower than what the most of us would care to sell for. However, I suppose we have little to fear from that source, as the island is small, with comparatively few up-to-date bee-keepers. Aside from that, they are a sister colony, at present in desperate straits and it would certainly savor of uncharitableness if we were to begrudge them an entrance into our markets. "Allee samee," wish they would keep their product up to market value.

Speaking about prices of honey, is it not deplorable how the bee-keepers (some of them) will stampede when they see in our daily papers, circulars sent by mail, etc., glowing accounts of the big crop of honey and low prices about to be; originating, of course, from wholesale firms anxious to do business. Am informed that certain bee-keepers, not a thousand miles from Toronto, either, actually sold their clover honey for 6c. per lb. Surely we need a honey Guild or something. Will await with interest our next meeting at Barrie, to see what progress our committee have made along that line.

### Brushed or "Shook" Swarms.

This system of artificial swarming has been conducted very successfully by a number of prominent bee-keepers in the United States and the subject is receiving considerable attention at present in the American

journals from which we take the following. We would be pleased to hear from any of our people who may have tried it:

Brushed swarms have been tested by our friend and neighbor, Mr. Vernon Burt, of Mallet Creek, Ohio. He tried the plan on a small scale last year and on a larger scale this year, and both seasons the experiment was attended with satisfactory results. According to his experience, brushed swarms, as described by Mr. Stachelhausen, not only gather more honey, but will not cast a natural swarm subsequently. Indeed, the best colonies he had for comb honey were the "shook" bees. In a word the, *modus operandi* is this: The parent hive is removed from its stand. Another hive with frames of starters, and the supers of the parent colony, are put back on the old stand. The combs are brushed or shaken in front of the entrance, causing the young bees as well as the old ones to go into the hive. The parent colony minus every bee is then set off on another stand. No harm results, says Mr. B., because the hatching bees in warm weather will take care of the other bees.

Our friend thinks the success of the plan lies in the fact that the young bees as well as the old ones go to make up the "swarm," and the reason why it is ahead of the natural swarm is because these young bees—in fact all the bees in the colony—are in a new hive on the old stand, ready for work. He also believes the brushing or shaking causing the bees to rush into the entrance has the same effect in stimulating their energy as when they come out naturally and are hived. Another feature is that the "swarming" can be timed to suit the convenience of the apiarist.

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Natural swarms, will come out on Sunday, and often when the apiarist is away or when he has other important work.

When Mr. Stachelhausen told me in person regarding his experiments with brushed or "shook" swarms, and how satisfactorily it worked, and when, later on, I met Mr. Louis Scholl, and he likewise gave me a favorable report of it, I was determined in my own mind that I would give the matter a thorough test in our own yard the following summer; but I had entirely forgotten it in the rush of our bee work until Mr. Burt told of his success with the plan. From what Mr. B. says of it (and he is a bee-keeper whose opinion I value highly) I am inclined to think the brushed or shook-swarm method of producing comb honey and controlling swarming is a real acquisition. If we could by so doing control 95 or even 90 per cent. of all our swarming, and crowd a big powerful colony down into a single story of a brood-nest—my! what big crops of comb honey we could produce in a season! and think how much this would be worth at out-yards where we cannot really afford to have an attendant!

M. A. Gill, in the Review, one who operates 512 colonies, has the following to say:

"I must confess that the longer I practice the shaking-off plan, when colonies are going to swarm any way, the better I like it. Much has been said about a colony of bees being a unit, and that we cannot sort them with proper regard to age, but I find that is more in theory than in practice. I find little if any difference between natural or shaken swarms that are now two weeks old, and it's certainly a great advantage in out-apiaries. Not over ten per cent. of my bees, that are in eight-

frame hives, are going to offer to swarm this season.—E. R. ROOT, in Gleanings in Bee-Culture.

#### HOW TO MANAGE SWARMING IN OUT-APIARIES.

You have asked for my plan as to how I manage swarming in my out-apiaries where no one is kept to hive swarms.

First, I will say, I do everything I can to prevent swarming, chiefest of which is to get on surplus arrangements too soon rather than too late, and never allow the bees to get into that clogged condition so conducive to swarming. My plan involves careful, painstaking and hard work, and you would need one good manipulator to work with you in an apiary of from 100 to 150 colonies one day each week.

My plan is, perhaps, as close to nature as any plan yet devised, and in carrying it out I follow Josh Billing's advice about setting hens. Josh says, "never set your hen till she wants to set." Applying this wise plan in the making of artificial swarms, I go to an apiary just before swarming time, so as to establish a date, and give every colony an examination for swarming and draw from all that show any indications of swarming by distributing brood among the weaker colonies. This will make them safe to leave for six days.

In six days I again visit them with my helper (in my case it's my wife and I am the helper, as there is considerable lifting to do) and carefully examine every colony, and every colony that shows a disposition to swarm is simply shook according to the Colorado plan.

When I carry out this plan I do it heroically, and when I carry the old hive to the new stand I know it's

fixed from all after swarming, as I only leave just enough bees to care for the brood, and it's surprising how few it takes, as the brood is hatching very fast at that time of the year.

The new swarm on the old stand having received all the working force, and in fact more bees than a natural swarm, will give a good account of itself.

The first time going over them (after your established date) you will perhaps find from six to ten per cent that show a disposition to swarm; the next time from twelve to fifteen per cent; the next time, which is the third week of swarming, back to from five to ten per cent; the next visit should practically close the season.

If the swarms in the parent hives are not satisfactory when the brood is hatched, I unite them so they will be in condition for the August flow, which you know is generally quite good with us.

As I said before, this plan means work, for when you step into an apiary of, say, 125 colonies, all supered, and thoroughly go through them all and make from ten to fifteen swarms (after finding the queens) and properly level up the hives and leave the apiary in good condition and safe to leave for another six days, you will admit you have done a day's work, even with a good helper.

Some will say it's not safe to leave them that long and that swarms will be lost. I say no, not if every swarm is shaken that has eggs in the cell cups. My experience is that very few colonies in normal condition cast swarms until they are good and ready.

I have not given much of minor detail for the execution of this plan as my time is now limited.

Swarming at the best is one provoking and perplexing feature of the season's work, and my motto in producing comb honey is to have as little

increase as possible, but when a colony wants to swarm, I swarm it, and the above plan is more satisfactory to me than to hire some man or boy to go to sleep under a tree and allow many more swarms to abscond than by the above method.

Of course, this method has no more prime swarms than natural swarming and has the advantage of no after swarms, and I think will prove satisfactory to any one who does the work thoroughly. M. A. GILL, Longmont, Colo., in Rocky Mountain Bee Journal.

#### SHOOK SWARMS.

When I had several out-apiaries to care for, and swarming became somewhat of a problem, I found it expedient to force the swarms by shaking the bees out into an empty hive on the old stand, with only starters in the frames, at a time when the honey-flow was good, and, after the queen had commenced laying, follow the swarm with the partly filled sections.

Swarms treated in this manner can be trusted, for a time, at least, and it and it is the only reliable method I have ever found that would keep the swarming impulse under control, and also give satisfactory results in surplus.

At the close of the season, if I do not wish for the increase, I unite the swarms thus divided, which I leave near together for that very purpose, by placing one hive over or upon the other, reserving the youngest or most desirable queen.

I use a deep frame which has a cross-bar in the middle, and this gives two places from which to build comb, instead of one, which is a decided advantage in starting.

I have used wired frames for this purpose, with good results, the wires running perpendicular. The combs will be built upon the wires in this

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manner with surprising nicety, many of them comparing favorably with those built upon foundation. From the samples of combs thus produced, I select the best for future use, and render the objectionable ones into wax. In this way I make wax production a source of profit.

For several years, in August, I moved about 100 colonies each year, about 12 miles, to the buckwheat fields on the prairie, and removed them later in the season. These colonies I treated in the same way, and thus saved hauling the stores back and forth, as well as keeping the buckwheat and late honey by itself.

We are having poor seasons for several years past, and there is much less swarming, hence these different conditions have to be met by different methods; and I am not practising this "shake-out" method as much as formerly.

I know no reason why it is not adapted to any locality or season in which the honey flow is reasonably good.—H. R. Boardman, in the Beekeepers' Review.

P. S.—In the last issue of "Gleanings" is an article on the "shake-out plan;" and I notice that the instruction is to shake out every bee from the old colony. I don't advise this; on the contrary, I advise, by all means, to leave bees enough to protect the hive until the brood has time to hatch; and especially take this precaution in out-yards when there will be no one to look after the bees. I had one very lively case of robbing, in an out-yard, by neglecting this precaution. I also close down the entrance very close. Sometimes I have closed it entirely with what I call a robber-guard until the bees get a little house-cleaning done, and have recovered from their panic and confusion.—H. R. B.

Communications

DEAR MR. EDITOR:

As there will doubtless be some indignation felt and expressed in this issue of this Journal in reference to an item which recently appeared in The Toronto World newspaper in regard to the honey crop, and probable lower prices, in which the firm name of Rutherford, Marshall & Co. figured, it is only fair and right that, being made acquainted with the facts, I should offer a short explanation.

Some time ago the firm sent out enquiries about honey and asking quotations, etc. A great many replies were received by the firm and honey aggregating somewhere between 100 and 140 thousand pounds was offered. Mr. R. speaking to a warehouse man remarked that honey was being offered freely and in his opinion ought to be cheaper than last year.

The World reporter happened along shortly afterwards, this unauthorized, over officious and exaggerating person gave him the sum and substance of what appeared, changing the thousands to tons and the rest in proportion.

Mr. R. regrets the mistake, which he can hardly be held responsible for.

Having myself received several copies of the above referred to paper with the item marked and a note along telling of what a mauling I may prepare for at Barrie, etc., and having neither shot gun nor revolver and still not wishing to forego the pleasure of being there, I beg to say that I am not at present in the employ of the firm, nor am I responsible

for newspaper items, correspondence, or any of their transactions, and hope to go to Barrie unprotected and enjoy as heretofore, the fraternal friendship and good fellowship of all bee-fellows.

I feel like attacking a moral to the above for bee-keepers: It is unnecessary and unwise to state definitely how much honey you have when replying to enquiries from dealers; simply quote prices and if accepted, don't send more than you have.

W. G. SIBBALD.

Claude, Ont., Aug. 28th, 1902.

EDITOR C. B. J.:

Having received a request from a party engaged in selling honey asking a report as to the honey crop, and, which answered would give said party an excellent insight into what the best bee-keepers are likely to have done in the direction of securing a good honey crop, permit me a little space in the C.B.J. Such questions are unanswered by me; the condition of my material welfare is not necessarily their business. I do not find any other class of agriculturists revealing their private matters to the public. Moreover when reports are secured from the best men and all the rest gauged by that report it is only misleading. Some men have had a reasonable, not great, return for their labors with bees, but I know of many who have not secured a pound of liquid honey this season. R. F. HOLTERMAN.

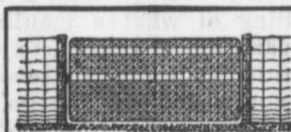
Bow Park, Brantford, Aug. 22, 1902.

DEAR C. B. J.:

The Toronto press reports of Aug. 13th say that "in nearly every section of Ontario the present season has been one of the best in many years for honey" and that present prospects pointed to "much lower prices than for several seasons."

August issue C. B. J. says:—"The season has been a very disappointing one. We have endeavored to obtain faithful reports from directors. . . . and so far as we can ascertain throughout throughout the Province of Ontario . . . there has been about a good half crop of clover honey, basswood was a complete failure. Comb will be scarce and poorly filled. About prices, we see no reason why they should be lower than last season."

Now, Mr. Editor, one of two things is evident: Either the "faithful reports" from directors of O.B.K.A. are all wrong and misleading, or the Toronto reports are astray, and the question is, which would be most likely to be correct. This, however, would not be a question with the public. The dealers and the consumers would only observe the reports in the public press, which are certainly misleading, at least so far as District No. 3\* is concerned. The crop is a short one, and this conclusion has been reached by correspondence with prominent bee men in different places in the district. Only one sale of any considerable importance has been reported to me, viz.: The total output of a large apiary, numbering



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are so low in price no one can afford to use wooden ones. Light, and yet strong enough to support a heavy man on the end while he swings around the circle without causing them to sag. They are neat in appearance, will last a lifetime. Will not sag nor get rickety. They are supplied with latches which allow them to be opened either way and are self acting. The only good metal gate that is low enough in price for general farm purposes. We also make Farm and Ornamental Fence, Poultry Netting, Nails and Staples. The Page Wire Fence Co., Limited, Walkerville, Ont.

some cent put I man at y Onta refer the for t they the r tical be co At \* Fro and Bre EDIT Aw ways part c home and y clean throug ario d awa, met ar hundr Some i ario, so Quebec ships, a bring receiv one fro ew, o from V ere al his yes us ho good he honey e grand of four good re think th er's di st in



some hundreds of colonies, sold at 9 cents per pound (extracted honey) put up in barrels.

I would beg to suggest that a summary of the correspondence received at your office from the directors of Ontario Bee-keepers' Association in reference to honey crop be sent to the great dailies at Toronto, if only for the mere curiosity of seeing how they would look in comparison to the reports already published. Practical men in honey-production should be competent to speak.

M. B. HOLMES.

Athens, Ont., Aug. 13, 1902.

\*Frontenac, City of Kingston, Leeds, Grenville and Brockville.

EDITOR C. B. J. :—

Aware of the fact that you are always interested in reports from every part of our fair province, I snatch a moment from my busy time to let you and your readers know what I have gleaned from many bee-keepers throughout eastern and central Ontario during my ten days' stay in Ottawa, attending the Central Fair. I met and conversed with at least five hundred bee-keepers (large and small) some from eastern and central Ontario, some from nearby counties in Quebec, others from the eastern townships, and quite a few from the neighboring States, and amongst all those I received but five good reports, viz: one from Winchester, two from Renfrew, one from Aylmer, Que., and one from Wakefield, Que.; the balance were all about one half crop. So that this year should clean out all the surplus honey and leave the market in a good healthy condition. As to the honey exhibits at the fair at Ottawa, a grand effort was made by the three or four exhibitors to keep up their good record of past years, and I think that, if anything, the present year's display was away ahead of the best in every line. The Capital

Planing Mills of Ottawa had a fine display of bee-keepers' supplies.

Yours truly,  
W. J. BROWN.

Chard, Ont., Sept. 6.

### Simcoe County Convention

The Annual Meeting of the Simcoe County Bee-Keeper's Association will be held in the Council Chamber, Barrie, on SATURDAY, 18TH OF OCTOBER. Morning session begins at 10 a.m. All members are requested to be present and others interested in bee-keeping are extended an invitation to attend.

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