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THE CANADIAN  
**BEE JOURNAL**

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

Vol. VIII, No. 4. BEETON, ONT., MAY 15 1892. WHOLE No. 312

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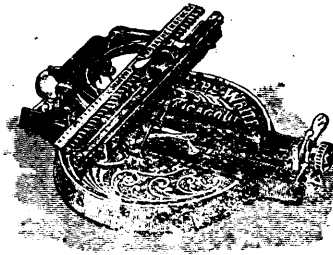
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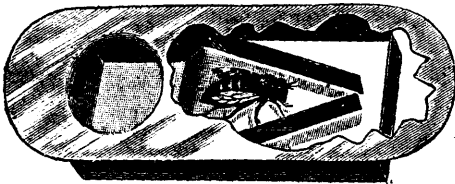
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Incorporated March 1886

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Each Affiliated Association shall be entitled to the privilege of two representatives at the meetings of this Association in addition to those who are already members of this Association, and such representatives shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of members of this Association.

Any County or District Bee-Keepers' Association in the Province of Ontario may become affiliated to this Association on payment of five dollars, which shall be paid to the Secretary on or before the 1st day of May in each year, but every Local Association, so affiliated, must have on its membership roll at least five members who are also members of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association at the time of its affiliation and must continue to have a like number of its members on the roll of this Association while it remains in affiliation.

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

VOL. VIII, No. 4.

BEETON, ONT., MAY 15, 1892.

WHOLE No. 312

## GENERAL.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Biographical Sketch of Francis A. Gemmill, President of the O.B.K.A.

BY ALEX. LAMOND, SARNIA, ONT.

**M**R. GEMMILL is a Scotch Canadian by birth, 46 years of age, his parents having settled in the County of Lanark, where they resided until they moved to Sarnia, County of Lambton, in 1854. In 1863, at the age of 17, he became an enthusiast in apiculture, the result of his visits to an uncle, residing in the same place. Box hives were the order of the day at that time, and "Quinby's Mysteries of Bee-Keeping" his principal text book. In February, of 1864, he secured a copy of the third edition of "Langstroth, on the Hive and Honey Bee," and as the Italian bee had been commanding considerable attention as well as the movable comb hive, he resolved to give both a trial. Accordingly, in June, of that year, he had a swarm of native bees placed in one of the Langstroth observing hives, which, by the way, still remains in his Apiary. In the latter part of October he secured from Mr. Langstroth, by express, an Italian queen, paying the then modest sum of \$10 for her, same having been sold the fore part of the season for \$15 and \$20 each. She was accordingly introduced, as per the instructions sent, but the result of said introduction was not known until the spring following, when he had the satisfaction of seeing young Italians disporting themselves on fine days in April. The subject of our sketch has not been what is now termed an extensive apiarist, never having owned more than 75 colonies at any one

time. Neither has he always kept bees from 1863 until the present time, as circumstances prevented his remaining always in the one locality; still he never lost his old time interest or enthusiasm for the pursuit, and was preparing himself to extend his sphere in this line, and establish a permanent out-apiary, when Foul Brood, the scourge of the Apiarist, slightly manifested itself in his Apiary, in the fall of '79; hence his action combined with a few others at the meeting of the O.B.K.A., held in Belleville, January, '90, urging the necessity of securing Legislation in regard to this disease with good results, and also took a prominent part in the Act preventing the spraying of fruit trees while in bloom, now in force in Ontario. Mr. Gemmill has used almost exclusively the eight-frame Langstroth, and latterly the new Heddon hive; and has wintered with fair success both outdoors and in the cellar. He thinks both methods have much to commend them. Cellar-wintered bees, in his estimation, should be protected in spring with packing, in order to secure the best results. His present location, although an average one, is, he finds, over-stocked, there being within the city limits (Stratford), about 250 colonies. Notwithstanding this, he secures fair crops, but nevertheless is in the habit of moving his apiary some miles distant in order to secure the benefit of a fall flow, which so far has been successful as to the amount of honey gathered, but he is not sure about the colony being benefited in the end; experience rather tending to show better results in wintering from colonies that have gathered no fall honey—buckwheat, however, is not included in list of fall flowers. Besides having done considerable at queen-rearing, he is a great lover of producing comb honey, but the late poor seasons have turned his attention

more to the extracted article. Although not given to trying every new-fangled device, he is not slow in adopting some, merely because they are new, hence his preference for labor-saving apparatus, such as bee-escapes, etc., including a hive cart *a la* Boardman, with some improvements considered of advantage in his special case. In addition to the above he has been President of two Local Associations for a number of years in succession. Has also been a Director of the Ontario Association for some time past, as well as serving two years as Vice-President, and now occupies the position of President of this Association, having been appointed in January last.

That all should keep bees is not a hobby of his, unless they have some love for the pursuit, as well as adaptability, time and sufficient pluck to stick at it after once commencing. He has suggested that a season spent with a practical apiarist, or attending such a College as the one conducted by Rev. W. F. Clarke, of Guelph, a good way of teaching any contemplating a trial. In conclusion, after having served his apprenticeship as a printer in his father's office, he followed the drug business for about ten years, but has for several years past occupied a position in the Civil Service. His family consists of wife, son of fifteen, who by the way is no novice, and is also a great aid in the apiary, although a trifle backward in coming to the front under some circumstances, and a daughter of twelve, who occasionally cages a queen when well paid for it. She thinks, however, her father can roost longer on a bee-hive than any other man under the sun.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

#### Winter and Spring Management of Bees, and Prevention of Foul Brood.

**I**N the fall with division boards I crowd each colony on six combs of solid sealed stores of the best quality. If the combs in *every colony* are not well sealed when I have the bees crowded on the six combs I feed in the evening until every cell is sealed. When I have to feed, I do it the first week in October. I remove the hive, place a feeder with 10 lbs. of warm feed on the stand, then put the colony on the feeder. The feed being warm, and only five-sixteenths of an inch from the bottom of the frame, it warms up the whole cluster at once. Then the bees will rush into the feeders and take up 10 lbs. on cold nights when they would not look into top feeders. I then pack each colony in a single case with four inches of leaves on each side front and back, and six inches on

top. I make the entrance three-eighths high by three inches long. I see that every colony is real strong in bees before I fit them up, and if not I double them up until they are. In warm evenings in spring I take out the division boards and give each colony its full set of combs. The combs that I put in in spring will all have more or less honey in them. I then carefully let every colony alone until the fruit bloom is over unless the weather has been unfavorable during fruit bloom. By crowding my bees on six solid, sealed combs of the best quality of stores I can bring every colony into spring all right. But if I were to let my colonies take their chances with their full sets of combs I would meet with more or less losses, because in cold winters the bees would be too much spread out by having their full sets of combs; and if January was very mild, the strong colonies with young queens and empty combs in the centre would start too much brood, which would completely break up the cluster by causing the bees to care for so much brood at a time when they should have been at rest. When the cluster is broken up by caring for so much brood in January, the bees will become very restless, consume larger quantities of their stores, and in spring will dwindle. Between fruit bloom and clover I see that there is plenty of unsealed honey in the combs, because brood is never as well fed when the unsealed stores are used up. It doesn't matter how much sealed honey colonies have between fruit bloom and clover, as it is the unsealed stores that do the business at that time of the year. In favorable weather the bees will gather abundance from fruit bloom and dandelions to feed the brood well, and keep a large quantity of unsealed honey on hand. Then right in the middle of it all, we sometimes get a frost, followed by rainy weather, which cuts off the honey flow so suddenly that the bees have to use up the unsealed stores at once to feed the brood. When the unsealed stores are used up so suddenly by the bees having to feed it to such a large quantity of larvæ, they will not then uncup the sealed stores fast enough to keep pace with the amount of larvæ that needs feeding. Then if the weather keeps backward after that, so that the bees get little or no honey, they will then begin to drag out some of the larvæ, and a little later on we find dead brood which will be starved brood caused by a sudden closing of a honey flow at a time when the bees had a large quantity of brood to feed. And this larvæ that is lost in many localities at such times is the very life blood of the honey business, because that larvæ saved would be the very bees that would gather our honey crops. At such times



I put on top storeys, and in the evenings uncapped and put the combs in them so as to keep up the honey flow by supplying the bees with plenty of unsealed stores. After the great killing frost of May 28th, 1889, I uncapped and fed over 500 bs. before the clover season opened, and every colony had plenty of sealed honey in their hives while I was doing that. My colonies did great business that honey season, as I had them in grand condition when the honey flow came.

In the C. B. J. of April 15th, page 22, Mr. Cornell says that he will furnish beta-naphthol if I will experiment with it on foul brood colonies. I will, with the greatest of pleasure, accept his very kind and generous offer, and will give that medicine every possible chance. If that medicine will cure or even prevent foul brood it will be a great thing for all the bee-keepers that have their apiaries near careless men that only make bee-keeping a fifth wheel to their waggon.

As I had to answer friend Cornell through the C. B. J., I thought I would write a few lines on the winter and spring management of bees. And while I think of it, I will here congratulate the editors of the C. B. J. on the great improvement in the JOURNAL. Every letter in the last few issues is very valuable.

WM. McEvoy.

Woodburn, May 4th, 1892.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.  
After-Dinner Thoughts.

SOME people seem to think that there are certain rules and regulations that infallibly govern bees in all cases and places. While this may be the case with some things that pertain to the regulation of the colony, yet the habits of bees vary according to circumstances, as much, perhaps, as the habits of the human race. For instance, bees have been known to use the dried carcass of a dead animal for a hive, perhaps because trees were scarce. The question of distance that bees will fly for forage is another that seems to puzzle some bee-keepers. This, too, depends on conditions and circumstances, because bees seldom have to fly nine miles for honey, is no reason to suppose that they will not do it in an emergency. When bees must have honey, they are going to have it if it is to be had, and all precedents are laid aside. The question of distance is not discussed by bees—it is simply a question of life or death with them; and if no honey is nearer than eight or nine miles, and, perchance, they wander half that distance in a fruitless search, when lo! their keen sense of smell detects the odor of sweet scented flowers four or four and one-half miles beyond, do you suppose they will retrace the like dis-

tance already journeyed, gently murmuring to themselves: "Although we could get honey by going a little further, yet it would not be according to the books, yet we must go back and see what Hutchinson and Miller can do for us in this extreme emergency?" No, I don't presume they will do any such thing as to come back until they have found honey, even if they have to go nine miles for it. Of course they could not store much surplus honey at this long distance, but they would take good care that they had enough to live on, I think. It is very common for bees in a large apiary to go four or five miles for honey, if they can find it a little more plentiful at that distance.

O O O

Mr. A. Bechtel has my entire sympathy and disrespect. He says he sulphured nearly all his bees last fall, and aint going to keep more than two or three colonies, cos he's in a poor place for bees. Furthermore, he says it aint worth while 'going into bees any more unless the Foul Brood Inspector comes along and provides a remedy. Dear Mr. Bechtel, while we can readily imagine that a man who will kill his bees for the reasons you present is small enough "to go into his bees," still at two or three glances we can also see that it is beyond the power of the Inspector to keep you "out of your bees." Oh, no, I don't wonder your bees have foul brood if you act that way.

O O O

On page 26 there is a very learned piece about Foul Brood. For terms that we don't often see and can't grasp their meaning, that piece is a "clinker." I guess it's an imported piece. If the man who wrote it is yet living, I would ask him what such an article does towards helping bee-keepers to know better, or to avoid, or to abstain from *making foul brood*. If you know how to keep well, you'll never have to have Mason or Miller doctor you with Root medicine to make you into a New-man again after being sick. That's the way with bees, if you know how to handle them according to *nature's laws*—you need have no sick ones. It's all very well to know how to cure sick bees. I think it's one very great blessing to know how to cure sick people, but while we love to give thanks for skill to cure our sick relatives and friends, I think we should study and ask for wisdom to guide us aright, that we may obey nature's laws, and keep well. We would always keep pretty well if we did right at all times. The trouble is we don't always know how. Bees would always be pretty well if we did right with them at all times—that is, if we didn't do wrong with them by breaking nature's laws in some things we do

in taking care of them. You think it over several times, as I have, and you will find it is the case. Curing foul brood is like throwing a man's sheep into the river, and having them float down to his house for him to pull out. After they had floated down several times the man would be more foolish than I was if he didn't find out who was throwing the sheep in. On the same principle some bee-keepers are furnishing foul brood for their neighbors to cure, and doing it right along at that. There is at times an over production of the disease, and then it is that the Latin elocutionist finds a busy and profitable season, and all to no purpose; for the stuff is indigestible for man or beast. What we, the people, need at present is less Latin and more learning. I have personally felt this need increasing seriously. Several hours before the Inspector made the announcement that *chilled brood* was the cause of foul brood, I had without any knowledge of his findings, discovered this myself—at least I found it out before I had heard of his. He has priority on the *chilled brood*, but I have priority in finding that the *extractor kills more brood than all other causes combined*. Extracting from the brood chambers does it, and most bee-keepers ought to know how it does it, without further explanation; but I may explain the how and the which of it by-and-by.

JOHN F. GATES.

Ovid, Erie Co., Pa., April 28th, '92.

### Spraying of Fruit Trees.

THE Legislative Assembly of Ontario at the late session passed the following Act, in reference to the spraying of fruit trees and the protection of bees. Following it will be found a brief summary of the evidence taken before a special committee of the House in connection with the consideration of this Bill.

AN ACT FOR THE FURTHER PROTECTION OF BEES.

(Assented to April 8th 1892.)

1. No person in spraying or sprinkling fruit trees during the period within which such trees are in full bloom shall use or cause to be used any mixture containing Paris green or any other poisonous substance "injurious to bees."

2. Any person contravening the provisions of this Act shall on summary conviction thereof before a justice of the peace, be subject to a penalty of not less than \$1.00 or more than \$5.00 with or without costs of prosecuting, and in case of a fine or a fine and costs being awarded, and of the same not being upon conviction forthwith paid, the justice may commit the offender to the common jail, there to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding thirty days, unless the fine and costs are sooner paid.

3. This Act shall not come into force until the first day of January, 1893.

### EVIDENCE AS TO SPRAYING FRUIT TREES.

Mr. Allen Pringle, ex-President Bee-Keepers' Association, Selby, gave evidence as to bees being killed by Paris green sprayed upon fruit trees, referring to various accounts taken from Bee Journals. He cited Prof. Cooke, of Michigan as authority. He had no experience himself as to poisonous spraying upon his bees.

Mr. F. A. Gemmell, President Bee-Keepers' Association, Stratford: Bees will feed upon sweetened matter that contains poison. Spraying during bloom is only throwing away time, labor and money; when bloom has fallen is the proper time.

Mr. Wm. McEvoy, Bee Inspector, Woodburn: Had heard many complaints that bees are being poisoned. Had seen them dying and dead; thought the honey also might be injured by poison being carried to it by the bees.

Mr. Gemmell did not think the honey would be affected, as when spraying is done the honey is being gathered for brood.

Mr. Gilmer said only one fruit grower in his neighborhood sprayed, there was no loss, however, as he did not spray during bloom.

Mr. A. W. Peart, fruit grower, Burlington: Had been for some time in the habit of spraying apples, plums and cherries immediately after fall of blossoms. Did so because the blossoms are much more tender than the leaves. The bees play a very important part in cross fertilization, and therefore should not be destroyed. Had had success in spraying, trees sprayed giving more bountiful harvest than those not sprayed. Thought this Bill was in accordance with the researches on these lines for the last ten years. Fruit growers in his district delay spraying until after the blossoms fall, and are favorable to this Bill.

Mr. P. C. Dempsey, fruit grower, Trenton: Had sprayed for over thirty years; with Paris green for only five or six. Sprayed only after blossoms fall. Since he had sprayed he would not find in 50 barrels of apples one barrel of bad ones; whereas before spraying was introduced it would have been difficult to get that number of really good ones. As to injuries to bees, he keeps 150 colonies of bees right in his orchard, and has never seen any of them suffer on account of spraying. Never sprayed during bloom. He sometimes sprays cherries and plums before the petals drop. He believed a Bill prohibiting spraying while in full bloom would be a benefit.

Capt. Felan, fruit grower, Oakville: The proper time to spray is when the blossoms fall. He did not think this Bill would injure fruit growers. He is the only man in his section who sprays.

Mr. G. E. Fisher, fruit grower, Burlington: His experience corresponded to Mr. Peart's. We are very generally dependent upon insects for the fertilization of our orchards. To destroy them to any extent would be very injurious to fruit growers. He thought this Bill is just what fruit growers require. If a man does not know enough not to spray while his trees are in full bloom there should be an act to prevent him from doing so. He had had no experience as to bees being injured by Paris green. A gentleman in Burlington told him that one of his neighbors used Paris green on his trees while in full bloom and while it was going on he noticed that many of the bees died.

Mr. Theo. Woodruff, fruit grower, Niagara Falls, thought that trees, especially the plum tree and the cherry tree, should be sprayed when the blossom is going off, but not when it is in full bloom. His experience is that he did not get perfect fruit by spraying after the blossoms had gone. He believed that as soon as the fruit is formed it got too hard for curculio to work in. He thought that the bees robbed his orchard every year, and was certain they carry "the yellows" from one section to another. Fruit growers should oppose that Act. He did not believe you could draw the line as to when trees are in full bloom.

Mr. E. Morden, fruit grower, Niagara Falls, had never yet heard a speaker who advocated spraying in full bloom. The codling moth and curculio do not deposit eggs on the blossom, but on the calyx of the embryo fruit. The curculios do not appear until about a week after the blossoms fall; then they are very numerous for about ten days, after which they become comparatively rare. It is during these ten days that we ought to spray. As to the canker-worm, spraying should be done before full bloom. Articles were produced, written by fruit men, advocating spraying only after full bloom.

Mr. Kew, fruit grower of Beamsville, thought that sufficient evidence had been given to show that the bees would be injured by the use of poisonous substances at an improper time. There would be a difficulty as to peaches, which he preferred to spray while the bloom is on. He thought fruit growers should be allowed to use their own experience.

Prof. Jas. Fletcher, Dominion Entomologist Ottawa, stated that the pistil of the blossom is very sensitive, and a very weak solution of Paris green would destroy it and prevent the formation of fruit. Bees are much more easily killed than other insects. There is no accurately recorded experiment as to whether or not bees have been killed by spraying. An experiment has been

arranged. He did not believe the honey is at all affected. The poison taken by the bees is in the nectar that comes from the flowers and before the bee can deposit it the bee is dead, so that the honey in question is never deposited. Even if the bee did not die before depositing it this honey is used not for surplus, but for feeding the young. As to spraying, if you wait until the flowers are all gone you will cover the canker-worm and all the insects that he knew of except the bud-worm, and in the case of the bud-worm he thought it would be necessary to spray before the flower is open. As to the codling-moth and the curculio there is no possible use in spraying for them while the fruit is in flower. In California the insects injure the fruit right up to the time that it is full grown. He did not think there would be any use of spraying the cherry until it is the size of an ordinary pea. Apple trees remain in flower about a week. The eggs are not laid until the flowers are in full bloom. Wait till they all drop before spraying. Bees do not visit fruit in dull weather, and then we get little fruit in consequence. As to bees injuring fruit there is no direct evidence. Wasps may start the work, and then bees continue it. We have never been able to find a case of primary injury by bees. As to their carrying "the yellows," that is a point requiring serious consideration, as we do not even know what "the yellows" are. He drew attention to the false statements of the English press that our apples are poisoned from their absorbing arsenic. The statement is absurd. The physiology of the plant renders such a thing impossible. The pistle of the apple cannot absorb arsenic or any other poison. If we could only get our farmers to spray more we would have better fruit crops. He thought there was nothing in this Bill but advantage to the fruit grower.

Prof. J. H. Panton, Entomologist, Agricultural College, Guelph: He could not imagine that anyone was doing what this Bill prohibits. In all cases of spraying that had come under his observation it was invariably the rule not to spray during bloom. But if there are people who will persist in doing such a thing he should certainly think it necessary to have a bill to prevent it, and to protect others. This Bill is in accordance with the teachings of all science.

#### MISCELLANEOUS EXTRACTS.

**THE CODLING-MOTH.** The eggs are laid on the young fruit at the blossom end, in the cup left by the fallen flower, and in about a week or ten days the larvæ hatches. Egg-laying continues about two weeks, so that the danger period for codling-moth is from three to four weeks after the blossoms fall. As soon as all the blossoms

are off and the fruit has fairly set and still points blossom end up, make your first spraying."

**PLUM CURCULIO.** The first spraying should be made before the trees are in bloom, and at least three sprayings should be made afterwards. Never spray trees while in bloom. (Bulletin of New Jersey Expt. Station, April 4, 1892)

At last fruit growers and bee-keepers are getting into right relations with each other. The numerous discussions which have taken place regarding the value of bees as fertilizers of fruit blossoms and of those blossoms of plants grown for their seeds, and regarding the alleged damage to fruit by bees, have led to close observation and careful experimentation, the results of which show that the interests of these two classes of producers conflict but in trifling respects—that, in fact, bee-keepers and fruit growers are of great help to each other and even indispensable if each is to obtain the best results in his work.

Bee-keepers have never complained but that the grower of fruit in the vicinity of their apiaries was a great benefit to their interests; hence their position has been merely a defensive one, the battle waxing warm only when poisonous substances were set out to kill off the bees, or when fruit growers sprayed their orchards with poisonous insecticides during the time the trees were in blossom, or again when efforts were made to secure by legislation the removal of bees from a certain locality as nuisances. Fruit growers at first relented when close observation and experiment showed that wasps bit open tender fruit, birds pecked them, they cracked under the action of sun and rains and hail sometimes cut them, the bees only coming in to save the wasting juices of the injured fruit. The wide publicity given to the results of the experiments made under the direction of the United States entomologist and published in the report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for 1885, have no doubt contributed much to secure this change among fruit growers. But now it would appear that the bees have only been vindicated, but that in the future fruit growers are likely to be generally regarded as more indebted to bee-keepers than the latter are to the fruit growers, for the amount of honey the bees secure from fruit blossoms comes far short of equalling in value that part of the fruit crop which many accurate observations and experiments indicate is due to the complete cross-fertilization of the blossoms by bees. The observations and researches of Hildebrand, Muller, Delpino, Darwin and others, as well as the excellent explanation of the subject in Cheshire's recent work, have gone far to prove how greatly blossoms depend upon the agency of bees for their fertilization and hence for the production of seeds and fruits." (Insect Life, April, 1892.)

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#### Reports

MARTIN EMEIGH of Holbroke writes:—I set my bees out of the cellar on Saturday April 30th. This is the latest I ever set out bees, I

prepared to set them out three weeks ago, but on account of the cold nights I left them in and I believe they are much better for being inside till the cold spell was over. They appear to be in excellent condition, I have not looked through them yet but I see they are flying as though they intended to make up for lost time, which I hope they will.

A. O. COMIRE, M. D. St. Francois, du. Lac. Que. writes us:—The spring here is long and cold, there has been no rain and the grass is not as yet growing. I put six hives in the cellar last fall and took them out on the 20th. April. They have wintered well and are in good condition this spring; have gathered some pollen to-day. Last summer I extracted 450 pounds of honey from four hives, which was my stock then. The soft maple is not yet in bloom and I am at a loss to know of any flowers in this neighborhood from which the bees can gather pollen.

They are probably gathering from willow, as it is the first pollen that comes, in this country.

M. G. A. Deadman of Brussels writes us:—My bees have wintered fairly well but the weather being so cold it is impossible to judge yet. Those in the cellar were removed April 22nd., had they been left in that day they would have had to remain for another week. I use light hives with space filled with chaff and have never had cause to regret it. No necessity for winter cases or worry over changeable weather. The season is so damp and backward, if it continues so the bees should get strong before the clover blooms.


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#### Words of Encouragement.

THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, of which D. A. JONES, the well known bee man of Beeton is the able editor, with No 1 of vol. 8 begins a new era in its useful life which promises to bring it a higher measure of popularity and success. Besides being enlarged, covered, and otherwise improved, it has a page of electros showing the faces of Allan Pringle, W. F. Clarke, R. McKnight, and S. Cornell, each of whom has an interesting article in the current number. This method of making the readers of the BEE JOURNAL better acquainted with the writers is, we understand, to be a regular feature. THE BEE JOURNAL is published twice a month at \$1 a year.—Toronto Globe.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### Ah--The Weather, Pollen Dearth, and Spring Protection.

 PRESUME bee-keepers are no exception to the rest of mortals, consequently do their share of grumbling at times. This being the case, no one need wonder at Mr. Pringle or any one else sending up an occasional wail; especially when we have such a season as this, for I think there has not been such a one for many years past. As far as this locality is concerned, I can, I think, truthfully say, such a poor season for springing bees cannot be remembered. I, however, at one time was quite jubilant over the prospects of a fine spring, good crops, &c., as the first week in April certainly indicated such expectations. But alas, "The best laid schemes o' mice and men gang aft aglee."

As I keep a record yearly of the first pollen gathered, strength of each colony when first examined, first honey secured, &c., I was, as a matter of course, pleased to find that on the 7th of April, this season, my bees gathered their first natural pollen, being one day earlier than ever before.

"The days of joy are brief,  
Compared to those of sorrow;  
The very thing I least desired,  
Appeared upon the morrow."

Yes, the following day the wind turned to the north, and has succeeded in keeping there ever since, and to make matters worse, the frosts at night have done what the wind failed to do, in regard to retarding brood rearing. Not only have the bees not been able to rear brood, the result of a complete pollen dearth, but the sun also shone so brightly at times, thereby enticing the bees out, when, on account of their impaired vitality, only resulted in the depletion of the colonies in their fruitless attempts to secure the desired article. Consequently, spring dwindling is another of the undesirable benefits we are deriving this season to our heart's content.

Well, what is the remedy for all this? Some will say, don't let your bees fly; yes, close them up entirely on cold, windy days, or shade the entrances so as the sun cannot shine on it, &c.; true, but I know some who pretend to do this, and yet they do not always succeed, as the worry caused the bees often does more harm than good. Again, such advice cannot be acted upon by those having out apiaries, in all cases.

Now, what did you do? may be asked by some. Well, as soon as I found the weather was not what I thought it ought to be for successful springing, I closed all the entrances so that only one or two bees could make their exit

at once, (I always do this in spring), then I saw each colony hold an abundance of stores, and all surplus combs over and above what the bees could cover taken away. I now placed shallow trays in a warm nook in the apiary, filled with a mixture of oat meal and flour, adding a few drops of honey to start the bees working thereon. I also placed two vessels (60 lb. honey tins) filled with water, in the same place, the one containing salt, and the other fresh water, a small hole being cut in each near the bottom, and a piece of cotton cloth inserted in much the same manner a woman would prevent a wash boiler from leaking, (temporarily of course), except that the cloth was put in loosely to allow the water to leak out slowly and run down a board projecting in front of the vessel containing the water, it having grooves cut in it with an axe, so as to afford the bees an opportunity of sipping the water which was warmed by the sun both in the tin and also while running down the board. I may here add, I was unable to discover that the bees showed any preference for the salt, over the fresh water, as both appeared to be visited alike at all times.

During my spare moments I used to sit down near this spot and listen to the merry hum and joyous fitting of the little fellows from the nook to the hives, as well as watching them burrow in the meal, they at times fairly fighting with one another in their haste to get a load. It is almost needless to say, this sort of thing paid for the little time and labor given, besides keeping the bees out of mischief. A Scotch friend dropped in while the bees were most actively at work, and at first seemed amazed, then laughed aloud, and quaintly remarked it was the first time he knew bees fed their young on partridge. Ah, said he, "that is what makes them so thrifty."

You, of course, know I am a great believer in packing all hives, and this I always do with even cellar wintered bees, as I have satisfied myself this is a necessity in my locality, and even if not *always* so, it is best to be on the safe side.

I know of quite a number of instances this spring, that cellar wintered bees have not only suffered severely, but many a colony is now defunct from this neglect, and the owners now beginning to think a little seriously about the matter.

I regret very much at having also to chronicle heavy winter losses in this vicinity the past winter, as follows: 32 colonies out of 45, 30 out of 32, 10 out of 12, &c. I am pleased, however, to be able to say my loss to date is only six, and those were in reality only strong nuclei last

fall. I must at the same time be consistent and add, that about one-third are in fair shape, another third middling, and the balance from weak to very weak. But all things considered, although not as good as last season at this time, I have no reason to complain under the circumstances, and am thankful that so far as I can at present see all are sound and healthy. After all, should everything always be to our liking, we might lose our equilibrium and run too many risks. This you know, Mr. Editor, has been done in the past, and therefore it behooves us to be on the alert in future, and if we don't all do as Mr. Pringle has advised Mr. McKnight to do, we can at least hope and prepare for an average crop, as we may yet secure more honey than the prospects now indicate; for has not some one already stated, that late springs generally give good seasons, provided, of course, we only have the laborers on hand at the proper time.

As the weather has so far eclipsed itself in quality, it is possible the coming eclipse of the moon on the 11th inst., may yet cause such an eclipse of the honey flow in quantity as we have not seen for many years past.

F. A. GEMMILL,

Stratford, May 9th, 1892.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

#### Foul Brood.

CANADIAN BEE JOURNALS for April 1st and 15th are just to hand. I am much interested in S. Cornell's article on Foul Brood, and most strongly commend his advocacy of Cheshire's method of cure. I know Mr. Cheshire personally, and I heard him read his first paper on Foul Brood before the British Bee-Keepers' Association; in fact, my acquaintance with him began by my suggesting to him that the most virulent form of the disease was caused by the queen being diseased, and at his request I mailed him three queens, in one of which he found foul brood bacilli. If I am not mistaken, the queen is still preserved in the museum of the B.B.K.A.

My attention was first directed to the probability of the queen being diseased by a case brought under my notice in which a purchased queen was given to a swarm hived on clean sheets of foundation, which shortly developed the disease in its worst type, nearly the whole of the brood dying before it was sealed, the odor being very bad. I had before that, cases under treatment where the greater proportion of dead brood were in sealed cells, and having a slight knowledge of the history of the silk worm disease—Pebrine—and Pasteur's discovery of its cause and cure, I argued that like it, there

might be two types, one hereditary, as from a diseased silk worm moth, so from a diseased queen; the other transmitted by infection, the same as a healthy silk worm eating food fouled by a diseased worm, contracted Pebrine; so young bees or larvae might be infected in the same way, and I was very gratified when Mr. Cheshire wrote me that he had found bacteria in one queen, and sent me bacilli mounted on a slide out of her.

Since I came to this country some seven years ago, I have had no chance to study the subject on these lines, but anyone can be sure that by following Mr. Cheshire's method of feeding medicated syrup, using the best antiseptic at command in proper proportions, (I have cured bad cases nearly as well with Salicylic acid as with phenol), they need never lose a single stock—provided only that if very young brood is found putrid, the queen being instantly killed and a healthy queen substituted.

Dr. Lortet's article is the more interesting in that whilst he suggests another antiseptic, he confirms Mr. Cheshire almost entirely, and I especially wish to call attention to the first paragraph on page 28 regarding the fastidiousness of the foul brood bacteria. "I have known mild cases in England vanish without treatment when the meadow sweet (spirea) came into bloom, this was, I believe, from the antiseptic properties contained in the flowers." Research in this direction might prove to be of vast help, and the planting of flowers with antiseptic properties greatly aid the stamping out of the disease.

F. FITZ HART,

Avery, La., U. S. A.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

#### Worthy Exponent of Bee Larvæ.

ON page 567 in A. B. J. we find this statement as a caution, of course, to bee-keepers; "Whenever you find any one advertising to sell articles below their value (unless damaged or out of date) it is very evident that the article is an inferior one. First-class goods always command their full value in any line."

Now, I suppose they mean to include queens as well as other things, and as a queen breeder, I take exception to the statement. In my method of obtaining queen cells with a Carniolan colony to build the cells, which will build more cells than the Italians on account of their known breeding qualities, I can breed Carniolan or Italians cheaper than those who follow the old methods of former days, and I send you my method of getting queen cells, for publication, so that any one can the better

judge of the truthfulness of my statement. I am inclined to believe with E. France, of Platteville, Wis., that queens should be sold cheaper than in former years. All bee supplies have taken a "tumble" from the prices of former years, and why not the price of queens take a "step down" too? I say they *can be bred cheaper*, and get just as good queens, too; and I am satisfied that in getting two lots of queen brood or chyme, as I do, while the young bees are constantly hatching, I *can get better* queens than by any of the methods given in books of former years. I make these statements for publication, and would suggest to any one who will, to try it. Another point I gain in making the "drop down" plan practicable and that is, on all my fertilizing hives I have cases that hold sections, and by keeping the little colony strong by adding hatching brood if needs be, I get many well filled cases of section honey. My frames run across wise my hive in a full colony, but for my nuclei I place the frames lengthwise. I have four sizes of hives, all take one size frame.

JOHN ANDREWS

Pattens' Mills, N.Y.

OF THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

### Wiring Frames.

NOTICE in last issue of C. B. J. that R. F. Holtermann condemns the use of wired frames. Surely he must have reference only to shallow frames. I would caution beginners against accepting Mr. Holtermann's views of this. I have used a few hundred unwired, and between three and four thousand wired frames, and want none but the latter. I use the Jones' size, but even with the Langstroth I would think it an advantage. I would very much like to know the harm it does. Wired frames have too many admirers and advocates to think of melting up foundation in wire frames as Mr. Alpaugh thinks of doing. With me, wired frames are one of the comforts in bee-keeping. The ordinary bee-keeper has sufficient to vex and bother him without using foundation in frames not wired. When hiving a large swarm on hot days, you feel a sense of security unknown to those who do not wire. No sagging, causing drone cells to be built near the top, and having to leave a space at the bottom for emergencies, which may prove too little and so warp your comb, or too much and have drone comb built instead. So I would say use wired frames.

G. A. DEADMAN.

Brussels, Ont.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### Expulsion of Bee Men From Ontario.

A PERSON calling himself Hall, a resident of the Queen city of Ontario, is certainly a very peculiar man if nothing else; as to whether or not he knows much or anything about bee-keeping is another thing. Even if he did, he is neither entitled to the honor of being called an apiculturist, nor the friend of one.

Ah, says he, "bees or no bees, that is the question." Well, that sentence should read "pockets or no pockets" with him, for don't you see he is going to become editor, benefactor, and a wealthy man all at once by the sale of his treatise on foul brood; and this too at no expense to himself, as he assumes all the local papers are going to "copy the matter" and also send him a copy containing it, free *gratis* for nothing.

"Freedom from molestation" at the hands of a few mercenary hustlers seems to have prompted him to demand that 10,000 bee-keepers should suffer, in order that he on our glorious Dominion day may be able to present them (for a consideration) what Mr. Frank Chesnire has already given the world for nothing. How very considerate, to be sure.

One would think from the supposed knowledge of this personage, that he was more thoroughly conversant with the working of the Foul Brood Act in Ontario, than the minister of Agriculture, the Inspector, President, or in fact any one else. Now, I am in a position to inform your readers such is not the case. More than this, he has not given you the facts, even in so far as he knows them, else he would also have stated the reply to a card (a copy of which I have in my possession), sent out by himself for information on the subject, read from a gentleman of the same name, residing in Woodstock, informing him that the Act *was a success*.

How much more of such testimony he gathered I do not know, for, as stated, he does not inform us. Suffice it to say, however, his veracity may be expected to be in complete harmony with his publication.

I rather incline to the opinion he will after reading the editorial footnote to his article in C. B. J. for May 1st, written by Mr. Jones, that the drug treatment alone, no matter what it may yet prove, has not, so far as Ontario is concerned, been a success of itself. Experience by practical and trustworthy men is worth much more than theory in this or any other case.

Now, if this gentleman is sincere in his desire to benefit bee-keepers, why not display more charity towards them, and give gratuitously his experience with the disease in the C. B. J., as

others have done in the past, that they may arrive at some conclusion as to his ability to write on such a subject. Surely no one would be guilty of endeavoring to pose as an authority without some experience of such a plague, and this being the case, I cannot see that too much is being asked of him by such a request.

A good example for this resident of Toronto to follow in this matter, is that of Mr. Corneil, of Lindsay, who has given us the very latest information regarding this scourge, so far as treating it with antiseptics, (see C. B. J., April 15th), yet this gentleman is not seeking any remuneration except the thanks of his fellow bee-keepers, which he is certainly receiving.

In conclusion, I will say I think selfish motives alone is the stimulant urging Mr. Hall, of Toronto, in writing as he has done, for, if I mistake not, he is the same person who sought an interview with Hon. J. Dryden, the esteemed Minister of Agriculture, some time in the beginning of March last, and condemned the Act in not very befitting language, and who, when questioned for his reason why the Act should be suppressed, could only give as an excuse, he did not want the Inspector or any one else prowling around his apiary in his absence, finding out valuable secrets pertaining to bee culture. Secrets forsooth! It would be of interest to know of what nature they are, as possibly of sufficient importance to warrant a visit from the Government Inspector, Mr. William McEvoy.

It would, indeed, be a difficult matter to find in any country, all things considered, a better law than the present one now on the statute books.

Even our American friends, who, by the way, are as far seeing as any one, have thought so much of it as in some instances to have copied nearly every clause therein, so that should the expulsion of one man from Ontario become really necessary in his own mind, he would have a hard time finding a more congenial climate.

F. A. GEMMILL.

Stratford, May 10th. 1892.

For THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

#### Mr. Cornell's Experience with Beta-Naphthol.

IN my article in the C.B.J. of the 15th ult., I said that the beta-naphthol should be added to hot syrup, but I fear I did not sufficiently emphasize the fact that the syrup should be hot. If a solution of beta-naphthol be added to cold syrup, re-crystallization takes place, and the crystals fall to the bottom of the vessel; but when added to hot syrup—say while the syrup

is still over the fire and thoroughly mixed—it remains in solution when the syrup cools. I have through mistake, fed double the prescribed dose. I only know the bees took it freely, and it did not kill them. Before this season is over I expect we shall know, as the result of our own experiments, the effects of beta-naphthol on the bacillus of foul brood. S. CORNEIL.

Lindsay, 12th May, 1892.

#### Letter From Binghampton, N. Y.

IN a letter from Friend C. W. Phelps, Binghampton, N. Y. he makes the following remarks, :

"Friend Jones, we have known you for a good many years, and am sorry to hear you are not feeling friendly towards your old friends on this side. Please remember, "Oil is better for a wig than vinegar." (an old proverb)."

Why, bless my soul, you never made a bigger mistake in your life than when you said, I am not friendly towards my brother bee-keepers in the United States I am the first life member of the N. A. B. A., or (N. A. A. as Bro. Miller suggests) and you folks cannot make any fuss big enough to keep me from attending your conventions, whenever I can. The good feeling that exists between the bee-keepers of Canada and the United States cannot be broken by a half dozen "Incorporations." Next fall when we all meet at Washington and get to shaking hands and talking over bee matters, we will never imagine there was such a thing as "Incorporation" or anything else that would tend to sever our friendship. We think there has been plenty said about the "Incorporation" business, and we will have more room for bee matter in future. Have you not heard that "lover's quarrels only tend to make them better friends afterwards."

#### Pinch Her Head Off.

WILL you kindly answer through the columns of the C. B. J. the cause of a queen laying drone eggs only, the same being hatched and the cells drawn out further than the rest of the comb, she is a fine looking queen what would be best to do with her?

Yours truly,

Wm. C. COURT.

Your queen is what is termed a drone layer, having been hatched when there was no drones to mate. We have a similar one ourselves and are replacing her for a good one. Pinch her head off and put another in her place.



FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

## Foul Brood.

**M**R. EDITOR. What does Mr. John F. Gates mean when he says on page 36 "C. B. J." of May 1st inst, that "lack of larvae food causes foul brood." This is a new idea to me, and one that is hardly tenable. There is no question that lack of food will cause starvation, but there is as great a difference between, foul brood and starvation as can possibly be imagined; that is to say in my opinion. Mr. Gates may be correct; in my judgement he is not, and before I can accept the idea he offers he must furnish proofs, and not rest on mere assertion.

Foul brood, is a matter of importance, and one on which we want all the light there is; but don't give us an "ignuns fatuous."

I never flatter, and I do not think you will look on it as flattery for me to say that the C. B. J. is one of the best Bee Journals published. It is eminently practical, and not only that, but you have writers who are scientific, and who give articles of great value to the student as well as to the ordinary bee man. While the Bee journals are supposed to keep up with the times generally you go further and your arrangements with such writers as Pringle, Corneil, McKnight, etc., are such that he who wishes to know something of entomology as well as analysis, gets it from them, their articles making your journal in that respect the best of all.

I must not write further, else you will say "rats."

Yours truly,

J. E. POND.

You are no doubt correct that starved brood is very far from being similar to foul brood and some who have not had quite as much experience in foul brood as others, are quite conscientious in their imaginations as to the cause of foul brood. It is beyond all question an important disease and while I am not prepared to say just where it originated, I am quite sanguine in regard to not being able to start it unless we have the germs of foul brood. We are very sorry that you will not be able to give us more articles on account of your very large practice as a lawyer, as we find very many important facts brought to light from your pen when you do find time to write.

We thank you very much for your kind expressions in reference to the

CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL and we are only sorry that ill health has prevented us from giving it the attention that we would like to have given it.

## Bee-Keeping in Western Ontario.

**W**HEN MR. HOLTERMANN lived in Western Ontario we quite frequently saw articles from his pen, but since his return to Brantford no one has written an article from this section. Can it be that there is not a bee-keeper in this Western portion of Ontario who is sufficiently interested in the pursuit to occasionally give you an item. For myself, I have not the ability to write an article that would do justice to this as a honey country. Lambton, Essex and Kent lie alongside the St. Clair river so that they are the most westerly counties in Ontario. Until late years the greater part of these counties has been a dense wilderness with deep swamps. The government having constructed large drains at short intervals through the country, have caused it to become fertile. Now some farmers go as far as to say that this will, in a few years, be the garden of Canada. As for bee-keeping we do not have to wait; Dame Nature causes flowers to bloom which were planted here by an all-wise Creator long before it was inhabited by man. My bees generally bring in pollen about the 10th of April. In the spring of '89 pollen was gathered on the 23rd of March, after which they were again at work on the soft maple buds with about three inches of snow on the ground. The snow that day gave way to the heat of old Sol and bees were then all right for the remainder of the season. During the previous year pollen was not gathered until April 26th, the latest I have known during my experience as an apiarist. Our honey harvest does not begin until clover yields nectar, which is between the 10th and 15th of June, then we have four months of almost a steady honey flow. Previous to clover bloom, bees gather sparingly from maple and raspberries, there being no orchards here yet, so when clover comes they are mostly in good condition to go to work. After it, comes the Basswood bloom between the 1st and 15th July. In some places where buckwheat is sown, it comes next; then follows Bonaset Golden Rod, Heart-ease, Spanish Needle, and lastly, the Astar, which is visited by bees even after the first frosts. Fireweed is a fall plant which yields an abundance of honey, but it only springs up the summer following a fire, therefore we cannot count on it every year. During the year '88 (which every person will remember) our honey

crop failed us pretty much all over the land, neither clover or basswood produced honey here that year, but during the fall flow they gathered about one hundred pounds per colony. My first extracting last season was done on June 15th; the last on September 22nd. Some of the colonies that I ran for section honey gave me one hundred sections full for my trouble. In looking over the fallow and waste land in the fall of the year it very much reminds one of a large body of water, so smooth and even do the white flowers appear to be for a great distance.

Marketing honey is a subject about which considerable has been written, yet, like many other subjects in connection with bee-keeping, will stand much more ventilation. Each individual bee-keeper has his own way of disposing of his crop, but it is necessary for those having any very large amounts to move around in order to secure a good price. Until this year I have had no difficulty in disposing of my season's crop. In '88 I sold my section honey for 18c. per pound; in '90, sold same for 15c. per pound. During the past year I have experienced far more difficulty in selling honey than ever before, and have had to sell at a low price, 13c. being the highest I have got for section, and 10c. for extracted up to the present time. The market here, which by the way is a good one, has been crowded more than ever before. On this account I have had to resort to peddling. Of course I might have sold honey in bulk by taking a lower price, but not being very busy, and wishing to realize as much as possible for my crop, I went from house to house and by so doing I have gained a greater knowledge of the ignorance and superstition of the people in regard to our pursuit. I find that very many people do not know that there are different grades of honey and they were rather surprised when I told them that it sold at two different prices. At this many began to suspect adulteration. Anyone going from house to house selling honey will frequently hear the remark "sugar is cheap and it is easy to feed bees". Just here let me say, that for his best interests, every producer when shipping or in any way marketing honey should supply every customer with a small pamphlet, printed similar to the following:—

Many are not aware of the fact, that in modern bee-keeping the practical apiarist can secure almost as many different kinds of honey as there is honey producing plants, each kind or grade having its own peculiar flavor, that which is gathered in the spring or fall is a darker color and a different flavor to that which is gathered during the summer. The darker colors although just as pure are generally sold at from one to

two cents less per pound than the lighter colors. Almost all pure honey will granulate, so liquify it set it on the oven or in a dish of hot water.

I think the above would be beneficial to bee-keepers generally.


J. R. KITCHEN

Weidman Ont.

May 12th 1892.

[ED.] We are very much pleased to hear from you Mr. Kitchen and trust you will favor us in future. There are many valuable points in your letter.

#### A Mountain Apiary.

 Y business up in the mountain is to obtain information of the climate and if there are sufficient flowers to justify bee raising, so far I think not, unless we could get land and sow Alfalfa. The spring has sufficient blossoms to start in places, but when the honey harvest comes the drought is such that nothing but bunch grapes can stand, unless Alfalfa is sown, the same as in Colorado. At Port Moody we became successful by sowing the property cleared for the terminus of the C. P. R. Vancouver afterwards being decided upon as the terminus. I purchased alsack and white clover and sowed it everywhere and planted willows, fruit-trees, etc. Last year I had a grand harvest as the result of my labor. I could tell you a tale of British Columbia but perhaps it is best to leave well enough alone. I expect to find a location up here which will be suitable for bees, then it is my intention to sell out at Port Moody. It is well perhaps for me to say, the trees in this part of the country are not of the kind to give honey, pine, fir, and cedar can be found everywhere. They say there is a tree called the "bull fir" that exludes a sweet substance that the wild bees gather but I have not seen a bee as yet, in any of my rambles. The weather is very fine and we have warm nights a little frost occasionally. Seeding is finished and the farmers are looking for May rains, which they say is sure to come, then everything will be splendid. In the valley the coldest weather we had during the winter was 6 degrees below zero. Bees wintered well out of doors, did not lose any, and as they began to gather in February, I shall expect to hear of an increase shortly.

WM. ELSON.

Enderby, B C.

From the many reports we have had from various sections of British Columbia, we think bee-keeping can be made to pay handsome returns in that country. There are many places, that we have heard from in your country which led

us to believe that it could be made, with a little judicious sowing of honey plants and clover, to yield a very large return and as you say your bees commenced to gather pollen in February, it was the last of April before ours gathered any here in Ontario, in fact the weather has been so unfavorable, that very little has been gathered yet. We have no doubt but the "bull-fir" would be a good honey producer, we saw limbs of trees, which if we remember right, came from Mexico or Texas, the leaves were so covered with a sugary substance, that it was impossible to see the leaves, you would think they had been dipped in sugar syrup and allowed to crystallize. Should you find any of these specimens, we would be pleased to have some forwarded to Ontario, and if you could get a quantity of them, I have no doubt the C. P. R. would bring them through free providing you could give them a few. We shall be pleased to hear from you as often as possible as we are very anxious to learn all particulars in reference to that country.

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#### Questions

Will you please answer these questions for me:—1. What kind of bees would you advise a new beginner to purchase?

2. What style of hive?

3. Will they do well up here in Northern Muskoka?

Truly yours.

JOE. WOODS.

1. The Italian or a cross between the Italian and Carniolan will give you very good results; a little Syrian when properly bred mixed in with them makes them more active but it is a mistake to imagine, that some particular kind of bee has such wonderful advantages over others, that you should go to any great expense to procure them, the ordinary bees of our country, that are fairly well bred will give you good results—

2. If you wish to take comb honey exclusively we would advise you to use the Combination hive, it is a great favorite with many and is becoming popular for both comb and extracted honey.

3. There are many in Muskoka who are doing well in bee-keeping. R. H. Smith of Bracebridge we believe has given up his farm and gone into bee-keeping on a larger scale. Mr. Schulz of Kilworthy has taken over 300 pounds from a single colony in one season. We think there are very few localities in Muskoka that would not give good results when properly managed. When the first prize for the finest display of honey was awarded to Muskoka last year to Mr. R. H. Smith, surely that ought to be encouragement for others to embark in the same business in that direction.

---

#### Report Of The Weather For May 1891.

1. Beautiful day.
2. Sprinkled rain in afternoon.
3. Cold and windy.
4. Cold and windy.
5. Cold, snow to-day.
6. Cold.
7. A little warmer.
8. Warm.
9. Hot.
10. Hot, rained in evening.
11. Cool air.
12. Strong Sun to-day.
13. Cool.
14. Cool.
15. Warmer, rained in evening.
16. Cold and windy.
17. Cold.
18. Getting warmer.
19. Air cool in morn.' and eve'.
20. Hot. Sultry.
21. Warm,—Rain cloud— thunder and lightning.
22. Cool.
23. Cold.
24. Little warmer. Pleasant day.
25. Warm. A few spits of rain.
26. Cooler to-day.
27. Cold.
28. Nice day.
29. Warm, almost hot.
30. Warm enough to be pleasant.
31. Hot. Hot.

—Beeton May 1891.

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—OF THE—

# Canadian Bee Journal

BEETON, ONT.

# THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

ISSUED 1ST AND 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

D. A. JONES, - - - EDITOR

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**BEEON, ONT.**

## EDITORIAL.

Messrs. S. F. & I Trego of Swedona, Ill. have forwarded us their price-list of Italian Queen bees.

We are in receipt of Circular and Price-list from Messrs. J. Van Deusan & Sons who are well known as Foundation Makers. Address. Sprout Brook, Montgomery Co. N. Y.

We are in receipt of a nicely printed Volume entitled "The Busy Bee and How to Manage them" also Catalogue of Bee Supplies from Walter S. Powder, Indianapolis, Ind.

We very much regret to learn in a correspondence from Mrs. Jennie Atchley of Floyd, Texas, that she has been very ill during the last few weeks, we hope to hear of her speedy recovery. We are pleased to state, that she has more orders for queens than she is able to fill, a number of these coming from this side. Surely advertising in the C. B. J. pays.

In a correspondence from Mr. Gemmill, of Stratford, he informs us that the Perth Bee-keeper's Association will meet on the 28th of May instead of the 20th as previously mentioned in this JOURNAL. We trust that bee-keepers in that neighborhood will turn out *en masse* and exchange their views regarding their chosen pursuit. We hope the Secy. will forward us as early as possible a detailed account of the proceedings for publication in next JOURNAL.

We should like to devote a little space in each issue of the JOURNAL to the marketing of honey, giving it a pretty wide range. The manner in which honey is put up has something to do with its sale, now everyone should make preparation to have their honey put up in the nicest possible condition and we are fully convinced that if comb honey producers would test narrow sections and have some of them put up to sell by the piece, they would soon find out that it paid much better to sell by the piece than by the pound. If sections of comb honey can be retailed for 10 or 15 cents each, it will be seen that thousands of them sell where hundreds do not at twenty or twenty-five cents. A cheap retail package of comb honey is the coming package for our markets.

## Examine Your Colonies.

IN Northern Ontario there has been few days since first of March, in which bees could fly and in some localities, they have not been able to gather pollen more than two or three days up to the 13th. of May. This is an extraordinary state of affairs and the absence of pollen in many hives, even when there was plenty of honey has retarded brood-rearing. Some may think, that as long as bees have plenty of honey, that they can carry on brood-rearing without pollen, such however is not the case and we were not a little surprised the other day upon examining a hive which had consumed all their pollen, to find that although it had large patches of capped and hatching brood (the colony being very strong), it had very little larvae or uncapped brood, brood-rearing had almost entirely stopped, and going to a hive that I observed with an unusual quantity of pollen, I took from it a comb containing a large quantity and placed it next to the brood in the brood chamber, although there has been no favorable weather since for bees to gather pollen I was gratified to notice that they had consumed a very large quantity of the pollen given them and that they had increased their brooding more rapidly than any other, hive in the whole Apiary. It was astonishing to see the amount of young larvae, and the food in the cells about it indicated that the whole colony had been devoting their

entire energies to feeding the larvæ; the queen had deposited eggs in four times the quantity she had previous been doing, or if she had depositey them before, the bees had removed them, as before the pollen was given them, there were very few eggs to be seen. From the time mentioned to the present, there has been plenty of natural pollen to be had by the bees.

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#### Feed Your Bees.

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#### THOUSANDS OF COLONIES STARVING TO DEATH.

**S**O MANY colonies are starving in every apiary that we may safely say that thousands of colonies are starving in Canada at the present time. The cold weather causes bees to eat more than they would in warm weather, as they are forced to eat to keep up the animal heat. It seems a great neglect on our part when sugar is only five or six cents a pound and syrup can be made in the proportion of two of water to one of syrup, that our bees should suffer. A feeder should be set on top of the hives at the entrance, or if the combs are lifted out and enough syrup poured into two or three combs to keep them until the honey begins to come in. There are very few apiaries, that if examined during the last few days, will not be found to contain starving colonies. It is not necessary for the old bees to starve and die before the colony is permanently injured, but when the hive contains such a small quantity the bees fail to see their way clear to carry on brooding, and the result is they curtail brood-rearing when the stores are about exhausted and they then cease feeding the brood. After the stores are entirely exhausted it is a very common habit for bees to bite open the young larvæ and suck the inside in order to prevent them from starving. We have opened the hives and found the larvæ just ready to be capped over, the skin punctured by the bees and the abdomens entirely gone. Such larvæ would be quite black and dried up, others would just have been operated upon by the bees and scarcely dead. This is a state of affairs, which, at this season simply means loss and destruction to the entire colony, because before the old bees can commence rearing

young, so many of the them have died that there will be no bees left to care for the brood and it will of course perish. Every colony should contain from five to fifteen pounds of food, according to the strength of the same, and the requirements up to the time that the honey flow commences. This will encourage them to liberal brood-rearing and will pay better than any other expenditure in connection with the apiary. In fact, after weak colonies have allowed their brood to perish, it is better to double the bees up with another colony and save your combs.

Now friends, do not take it for granted that your colonies have plenty of stores; make sure by examining them and you will perhaps find this a timely warning. We know of whole apiaries that have been almost entirely lost for want of stores, and we know of but few that have not suffered during the past month on this account.

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#### "What Will The Harvest Be."

**T**HE prospects for a good honey crop the coming season are better than they have been for many years, and we will not be surprised if in many localities the honey flow is far above the average. Those who have their bees in good condition may expect to be handsomely rewarded for their trouble. Some may say, why do you thus predict that such will be the case. Well, the largest honey flow we ever recollect having in Canada was a Spring very similar to this one, the season opened early with a few warm days, then we had a late cold backward spell and very few had their bees in good condition early in the season, yet it seemed in spite of the weak condition of the bees, every hive was filled with honey, every few days when I went to it, it seemed as if all the flowers yielded nectar very liberally. The clover was so full of honey, the bees did not seem to have to visit more than one or two heads to fill themselves and they did not appear to have to go very far from the Apiary. When basswood came in, every flower seemed to be filled with honey, on examining the blossoms by putting back the little leaves in them, at the base of each could be found a small drop of honey in fact there was some of them so loaded with honey

that the nectar could be shook out of the flower by giving it a sudden shake. It was astonishing to see how rapidly they could gather honey when it was there in such quantities. People talk of various races of bees being superior honey gatherers, but at that time, it appeared as if one variety of bee gathered as much as another. It is necessary for us to have sufficient warm rain and sunshine to produce a crop and instead of the warm weather and rains in early spring then cold in midsummer, as we have had it frequently for years back, unsuitable weather for honey secretion, the season was so shortened up by the late cold backward spring, that the weather, after the cold spell was over, became warm with warm rains, the atmosphere moist, sun not too hot, just the kind of weather suited to the secretion of large quantities of nectar in the flowers, this weather continued until fall.

So far this season, the weather has been very similar, the clover never was in better condition for a good honey crop, the warm rains last fall freshened it and left it in fine shape for winter, the mild winter does not seem to have injured any of it. We would now suggest, that bee-keepers put forth every effort to get their colonies strong as early as possible, and although I have no interest in the supply business, directly or indirectly, I would suggest that due preparations be made.

It is a great mistake to leave off the ordering of supplies until the last moment, at the same time we do not advocate rushing unnecessarily into debt, but you should be prepared for the big flow when it comes, and all the work in connection with the apiary should be completed beforehand. If you are delayed a few days now and a few days again in your work, it does not only mean the loss of the honey that might be gathered in during that time, but it frequently means almost the entire loss of the honey crop by giving bees the swarming fever disorganizing the natural course that would be had we attended to ever, thing at the proper time.

It is a good thing for the manager of an Apiary to look well ahead of him, to see that all his goods ordered have arrived, that all the sections are folded, foundation in them, the cases filled ready to set on the moment the right time arrives and everything about his Bee House neat and clean, so that any person visit-

ing his apiary may be favorably impressed with the tidy neat appearance of everything about it, and not disgusted with the slovenly way in which things are managed. There are so many things to be taken into consideration, that those who have a large stock of bees to attend to, have little time to think of other matters, and should devote every moment possible to their bees and let the year '92 be marked as one of the successful years of apiculture. Those contemplating the production of honey for exhibition purposes should lay their plans to do so and should carry out those plans as far as lies in their power. We hope to see an excellent exhibit of Canadian and American honey at the World's Fair, Chicago, there is no reason why bee-keepers cannot make the honey department of the Chicago Fair one of the most attractive features of the whole Exhibition, we know there is intelligence, push and perseverance enough in bee-keepers of America to show the World what they can do in their special line. We would ask the various bee-keepers to make suggestions and let us hear who can offer the best and most successful way of exhibiting, introducing or marketing; anything in the way of suggestions that will be beneficial to the bee-keepers and exhibiting committee will be very acceptable. We do not expect to see everyone exhibit a 4½x4½ section containing just 16 ounces but let us see how varied this great exhibition can be. what new features will be added, who will assist us in adding all these new features. We anticipate comb honey shown there filled and capped over, that the face as you stand and gaze on it presents a beautiful "Eagle" "George Washington", "Queen Victoria", "The Beaver", "The Maple Leaf", etc. etc. Some may exhibit comb honey there in sections, beautifully capped, not a half-inch in thickness, others may exhibit it perhaps two inches thick. We believe one party intends to try and have a representation of "Our Saviour on the Cross", we hope he may succeed. Any person having any new ideas, let him ventilate them through the Journal, that all may alike profit by them, and what you lose directly you will gain indirectly by that course. We shall be pleased to give everyone credit for their ideas upon any matters pertaining to apiculture.

**DR. J. W. CRENSHAW,**  
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offers for sale **Untested Queens**. May and June, \$1; After, 75c. Imported or Doolittle mother, as preferred. Contracts solicited. Roots goods for sale; also Celery plants, July to Sept., at \$2 per thousand. b4 ly  
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Tested Italian Queens in May, \$1.50 each. Snow white sections \$2.50 per thousand. Hoffman frames and a full line of Bee-keepers' Supplies. Twenty page price list free. J. M. KINZIE, Rochester, Oakland Co., Mich. b4 ly.

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Tested Italian Queens, each, \$1.25; six, \$7. Untested, 75 cents; \$4 for six. Queens prolific and bees good honey gatherers. Safe arrival guaranteed. MISSES S. & M. BARNES, Piketon, Ohio. b4 ly.

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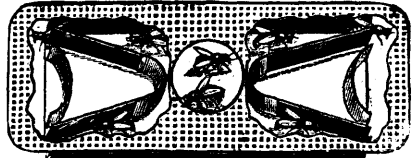
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