

...The Canadian Bee Journal

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

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VOL. VIII, No. 11.

BRANTFORD, ONT., MAY, 1901.

WHOLE No
435

Annual Meeting

Twenty-First Annual Meeting Bee-Keepers' Asso., Ontario.

HELD AT
NIAGARA FALLS,
DEC. 4, 5, 6, 1900.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 224.

Mr. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. McEvoy, that the next annual meeting of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association be held at the town of Madstock, Ont., which, on a vote having been taken, was declared carried.

Mr. McEvoy moved, seconded by Mr. Gemmell, that it be a recommendation to the Board of Directors that Mr. George Angus be the permanent official Stenographer of this Association, which, on a vote having been taken was declared carried.

PREMIUM.

Mr. McEvoy moved, seconded by Mr. ... arling that the "Canadian Bee ... " be recommended to the ... of Directors as the premium ... coming year, which, on a vote ... been taken, was declared

... resident called upon Mr. W. ... inson, Flint, Michigan, to ... per on

"HOW LITTLE NEGLECTS EFFECT
THE PROFIT OF THE APIARY."

For want of a nail the shoe was lost;
For want of a shoe the horse was lost;
For want of a horse the rider was lost;
Being overtaken by the enemy and
slain;
And all for want of a horseshoe nail.

How well this old ditty illustrates the losses that occur in the apiary from little neglects. For want of a pound of feed in the spring the colony may be lost; and for want of the colony the harvest is lost, as there are no bees to gather it. For want of care in disposing of the cage and accompanying bees when a queen is bought, foul brood may be introduced into the apiary, and the end thereof no one knows.

Most emphatically is bee-keeping a business of details. Of course, there are certain broad principles that must be observed before success can even be hoped for. The apiary must be located where there are honey producing plants, and there must be bees in sufficient quantity to gather the nectar. The bee-keeper must understand his locality; know when to expect the harvest, and have everything in readiness for it. If in a northern climate the bees must be protected in the winter, either by some kind of packing, or by putting them in the cellar. If comb honey is to be produced, some system must be adopted that will keep the working

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force together instead of having it divided up into two or three colonies. But after a man has mastered all the basic principles of bee-keeping, yes, after he has become conversant with the details, he may lose a large share of his profits simply from out and out neglect. The bees are in the cellar. He does not go near them. He does not know what the temperature is. It may be too low; and, if so, it might be possible to add to the protection afforded by the walls. Boards might be set up around the walls, held in place by strips of wood tacked to the sides of the house, and the space filled in with sawdust. This little care alone might, in some instances, secure the safe wintering of the bees that would otherwise perish or come through the winter in poor condition. If the bees are in the cellar under the home of the bee-keeper he might employ artificial heat at those times when it is needed. A large oil stove having a hood over it, connected by means of a pipe with the stove pipe in the room above, will answer every purpose. A cellar may become infested with rats or mice that will gnaw combs, and do much damage if not gotten rid of. Equal parts of flour, sugar and arsenic placed in dishes in the cellar will make quick work with the rodents. Mice will play sad havoc with colonies left out of doors if the entrances are neglected. The bee-keeper should know how his bees are wintering. He should not neglect them. A perfect wintering of the apiary lays the foundation for a successful season.

After the bees are placed upon their summer-stands don't neglect them. As soon as the conditions are favorable, look them over. Here and there will be a queenless colony. Here and there a weak one. United, such colonies may prove as good as

there are in the apiary. Neglected, they will be of little value—the queenless ones will certainly perish, perhaps become a prey to robbers, thus stirring up bad blood in the apiary at the time of the year when all should be peace and happiness. Some colonies will be found with a great abundance of stores, others on the verge of starvation. Neglect here means the loss of all colonies that are short of stores.

As the harvest comes on, don't neglect to have the hives, sections, frames, etc., all in readiness. Some of you may be ready to shout "chestnuts." Well, if only those shout who have never been caught, I think none of us will need to cover up our ears. Nothing will quicker change the mood, and disposition, and intention of a colony, cause it to turn its energies into a different channel than the neglect to furnish it surplus room when it is needed. The disposition to store honey is laid aside for that of swarming. A colony without the swarming fever will do little work until that fever is abated. If a colony first turns its energies in the direction of storing up surplus, it will often continue on in this way the entire season with no thought of swarming. And, speaking of swarming, reminds me, that the neglect to clip off just one little eighth from his majesty's wing sometimes results in the bee-keeper striking a dejected attitude, as he gazes sorrowfully on the tree tops where he sees disappearing, as little specks in the sky, the last few straggling members of the rear guard of a prime swarm that would have stored 50, perhaps 100 pounds, of honey had he not neglected to clip off that little one-eighth of an inch.

When it comes to the extracting of honey there is one point that I wish to mention, although it may be made

a mistake than a neglect—it is that of extracting the honey before it is ripe. Of course, it is possible to artificially evaporate thin honey, but with this evaporation goes a portion of the fine aroma. Not only this, but the evaporation of honey does not ripen it. The bees in their handling of the nectar invert or change the cane sugar to grape sugar. They change the raw nectar into ripened honey. If we take it away from them before this change is completed, it lacks that much of perfect ripeness. It lacks the tang that tickles our palates. Thin, unripe, watery honey ferments and sours, and bursts tin cans and pails, and disgusts and disappoints every one who has anything to do with it. Nothing has done more to destroy the market for honey than the placing upon it of unripe honey.

Little neglects in preparing the honey for market are very expensive. The neglect to scrape the propolis from the sections, the neglect to use non-drip cases, the neglect to put the cases into a larger case or crate when small shipments are made, may mean the loss of two or three cents a pound. Sections daubed with propolis, honey dripping from one case and daubing the one below it, coal dust and cinders rubbed upon the daubed cases, greatly lower the price and retard sales. Before the days of no-drip cases and outside crates I went so far as to wrap a paper around each case before shipment, that the cases might be clean when they reached their destination.

Men who make exhibits at fairs often lose premiums that they might have captured had they not neglected to tastefully label their packages. It is a little thing, but it adds the finishing touch.

Then there are the little things, like: "Where do you keep your

smoker and fuel?" The neglect to provide a proper place for them may mean a costly fire. I once kept my smoker and fuel in an old wash-boiler. Once upon a time when I removed the cover, the flames burst out. Suppose the boiler had been a wooden box kept in a building, and the fire had not been discovered while still confined to the box? I now keep my smoker and fuel in a large box, with a hinged cover, out in the yard.

The matter of saving wax ought not to be neglected. It is a good deal like saving paper rags, just about as easy to save the odds and ends as to throw them away. A solar wax extractor is a nice thing for this purpose. Keep it standing in the yard, and when there is a bit of waste comb toss it into the extractor. One year when I did a large job of transferring I threw all of the odds and ends into a barrel, and pounded them down hard with the end of a large stick. Then the matter of rendering was neglected until that barrel, two-thirds full of pounded down comb was one mass of webs and wriggling worms.

But why multiply examples? We all know that the profits of an apiary can be entirely wasted or destroyed by little neglects. What is the cause of this neglect? In some cases it is simply a combination of indolence, procrastination and a sort of belief that things will come out all right of themselves. Then there is the neglect that comes from having too many irons in the fire. If you have so much business that you can only half attend to it, that something must be neglected, two courses are open—hire some one to help you or else dispose of part of your business. There is more pleasure and profit in a small business well managed than in a large business that must be

neglected. Some men are so constituted that they cannot employ help to advantage. They have done all of their work so long that they feel no one else can do it properly. It would put them all in fidgets to see some one else cleaning their sections, or uncapping combs for the extractor. Other men have learned that it is much more profitable for them to oversee and plan the work, leaving the carrying out of the details to competent help. You know yourself, or ought to, so choose the course to which you are adapted, but don't keep on conducting your business in such a manner that you are compelled to neglect it. Be thorough, up-to-date, progressive and energetic, but don't lose half your profits as the result of little neglects.

Mr. A. E. Hoshal not being present the President called upon Mr. J. B. Hall to open the discussion on Mr. Hutchison's paper.

Mr. Hall: Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, these little neglects have covered a lot of ground and I must speak in praise of the address read by our friend Hutchison. I find as a specialist that my business with the exception of selling honey is all made up of little things. The man or woman who can't attend to little things has no business to keep bees. A man may be able to equip and run a railway and yet may not be able to run an apiary because he cannot attend to the "little things" he must have "large things" to attend to. I believe that the cause of my success as an apiarist is that I can attend to a thousand little things, this of course is not saying that I cannot attend to some large things also, but I can attend to a thousand little things and attend to them properly, this, the phrenologist says in my forte. He says "You can attend to a thousand things and do

them right, but you cannot boss a lot of men. A man who employed you would give you half his income rather than let you go simply because you attend to the little things and do them properly. I have often had young men with me to learn bee-keeping and some of them could not do the little things, they wanted to do a lot at once; they wanted to do a big day's work and rejoice at the end of it no matter how it was done; they could not watch for the little things; they could not cut the grass, they could not tell me which of the stocks of bees in the yard wanted a super, or which was likely to swarm next day except they open it. There are a lot of little things like this overlooked and I think it happens through want of observation. Bee-keeping, except in selling the stock, is all made up of little things.

As far as spring feeding is concerned, I am a lazy man and I have found it is better to give the spring feed in the month of September previous; and as I have advocated in the past, never open your colonies until the fruit blossoms unless there is something wrong with them. If you want to know their strength and cannot tell by the noise they make tip up your hive and look underneath do not break your quilts. This may make the difference of a crop of honey or no honey. You open them in the spring to see if they are queenless, what good can you do then if they are queenless? Let them be.

As to locality, Mr. Hutchison is right. I think we do not as bee keepers, study our locality enough. I was reckoning up the other evening with my good lady how many meetings we could remember that had started to keep bees in the town of Woodstock and had totally failed and were counted thirty-four, some of them with two-hundred stocks of bees

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they not only failed but lost everything. They saw one little fool making his living at it and they said, if he can do it we can. They lost their bees, and losing their honey they lost their money.

There are some who do not produce much honey and do not progress in the multiplying of their bees. They do not study locality and as a result their business is spoiled for themselves and others.

In wintering bees I think that also should be done in September, not in the months of December, January and February; they will attend to themselves then if you will attend to them in September. Give them all a good feed and let them alone. What I think the successful wintering of bees depend on—and I am pretty sure that I am right—is the quantity of stores more than the position they are wintered in, I have wintered them with no top and bottom and I have wintered them shut down pretty close; and in cold, in warm and in dry cellars, and I find that those that have plenty of nice feed come out in good condition as a usual thing. Some of them of course might die but it is usually on account of queenlessness.

There is one little thing in which I differ from my friend who read the beautiful paper. He recommended us, no doubt conscientiously, to unite our queenless and weak stocks in the spring. This I have found from practical experience is waste of valuable time. It is all very well to do it as an amusement, but for profit never unite two or three or ten weak stocks. See that they have enough honey and keep them shut down and give them a good letting alone and they will be sure to pull through. If you have ten and you put nine together their is only one queen left and that

may be the poorest queen of the lot. You have not only lost four or five but you may have destroyed the good queens and very likely got a poor one left, and you have got nothing but your queen. Don't unite in the spring, let them pull through if they can; if they don't you have got the hive for something better when the warmer season comes. That is my experience after twenty-five years. I used to unite them and when we put them together they made a very good looking stock of bees, both in honey and bees, but in three weeks from that I had only one stock of bees and therefore I think my time was wasted.

Mr. Sparling: Mr. Hall, I think very likely you and I do not understand friend Hutchinson.

Mr. Hall: Very likely You know as well as I do that those bees are old and will live a few weeks only and they don't pay for the labor of uniting them with a colony that has a queen. You may lose your queen by that uniting and if you do not lose that queen, those bees are old and are going to pass from the stage of action in a very short time. I don't advise any of my friends to do it.

There is good piece of advice which he gives us and that is to make a good "ready," and without a good "ready" you can't do much. One year I had two boys and a man and myself and we made a good "ready"; then we waited, staying there throwing chaff at each other all day long and we got no honey. They laughed at me. I had 400 supers I think prepared to take comb honey but we didn't get an ounce of it; the next year we had them ready and we got twenty-five thousand pounds with less help. We had a

good "ready." Get ready whether you need to be ready or not.

As to the extracting of honey I copied from our friend Pettit who used to attend our meetings. I thought he was mistaken first—this is never to extract a full super. Do not let it go until it is full. Go and take out what are full and ripe, shoving the others to one side. Smoke them and pick them out and set them around while you are putting in new combs and shut down the hive. These are standing there and you can then shake the bees off and brush them off and there is no stinging. You can get on as fast as you like with no stinging if you just set them aside for a little while. Mr. Dickenson uses two supers; that is very nice; but you have to lift one of them so high; by going over them occasionally you can get just as much honey and just as good honey and you do not give the bees too much room at a time. You know as well as I do bees do not like too much room. If you give them a little they will say "We want to fill this."

With reference to a man in the apiary—you must have the right sort of a man. Generally speaking we cannot lay our hands on a good man in our busy time and so we leave honey in the out apiaries to be extracted until the end of the season which is very inconvenient and the honey is not so good; there is some of it that is not capped over when the cool nights come, and it gets a little thinner. If you take it when it is coming in you find hardly any of it thin, and you keep the aroma there and you get just as much.

He also gives us a pointer that we must be very particular in the packing and shipping of our goods. That thing in the long run pays better

than anything I know of. If our customers get our honey in bad condition they are a little doubtful about dealing with us again; although they may not scold us or grumble. Whereas, if a man receives your honey two or three times and sends in his order without asking the price and says "We always get your honey in good condition, ship us so much," we can know that he is satisfied. I find in shipping, especially where you have to ship long distances with comb honey, that you can ship comb honey without any difficulty.

With regard to saving scraps we can save several dollars in the apiary by not throwing them around to draw the moths. I say in regard to bee-keeping as in anything else, the specialist is the man in the long run who is going to make money if there is any in it. You have your eggs all in one basket and if that basket falls you have lost the lot, of course but you can look after that basket so much the better. If you have several irons in the fire you are sure to get some of them burned. I have done nothing for a living for the past eighteen years but produced honey and I have always received a living; some years I have not received a cent but I have been putting a little aside all the time. My success is simply because I give my business my whole attention; I haven't a good location. We have neighbors who do not get anything from their bee-keeping because they have something of more importance to do something larger; the bees are a nuisance and therefore they neglect them.

I do not know that I can say anything further either against or in favor of this valuable paper on these things.

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Mr. Sparling: Would you mind telling us what kind of a package you use?

Mr. Hall: We pack a dozen of small crates in one large crate, we put straw in the bottom, just enough so that when pressed it goes down to about four inches. It is a slatted crate so that the railway employees can see what they are handling; there are handles at each end so that two men can pick it up and carry it. They see it is frail; it doesn't look strong and they handle it gently. We send honey in that way to Manitoba and British Columbia.

Mr. Sparling: What thickness of stuff do you use?

Mr. Chrysler: The outside crate is about three-eighths of an inch.

Mr. Hershiser: I have saved some valuable queens sometimes when they would be so near gone that there would be only a queen and half a dozen bees left. I have found them in that condition and by exchanging this hive with the queen and a very few bees with another strong colony when they were gathering pollen, I have saved both.

Mr. Hall: If there is a very valuable queen there is something radically wrong or else what you state would not be the case.

Mr. Hershiser: Sometimes bees will drop down into the bottom of the hive and they are prevented from flying and are kept in there so that they worry themselves to death.

Mr. Hall: Certainly, but that is your fault. Your valuable queen, that you speak of is not going to give you any services that year.

Mr. Hershiser: One of these valuable queens that I saved in that way last spring was one that was advertised by Mr. Hutchinson and I didn't want to lose her. He sent her to me and the colony built up very strong and seemed to be in excellent condi-

tion to winter, but that accident happened; I saved the queen and I think I got fully forty or fifty pounds of honey.

Mr. Hall: Fall honey?

Mr. Hershiser: Yes.

Mr. Hall: That is an exceptional case. Where you have a lot of weak colonies you are sure to have some good queens and if you have good queens they will build up and make something, and if there is a fall flow they will give you some fall honey. But, as I said before, by uniting them you may lose your good queen.

Mr. McKnight: I have had some experience in shipping comb honey. My first experience was nearly fifteen years ago when we went over to England with forty tons of honey as an exhibit from Ontario to the Colonial Exposition. Some of us were under the impression that comb honey would pack better than extracted honey. We discovered afterwards it would not. I hadn't much comb honey myself and my friend, Mr. Pettit, told me that Mr. Alpaugh had a nice collection that he would send. I left Toronto and went up to Mr. Alpaugh's home and bought two thousand pounds of comb honey from him to supplement our exhibit. I knew Mr. Alpaugh's aparian experience and I knew he was a reliable man and I instructed him how to pack it. I confess it was an experiment because most of the rest of the comb honey was being packed in all kinds of packing apparatus. I told Mr. Alpaugh to put up his honey in twelve section cases and to get outer cases made that would hold six of these nicely and closely and put in no packing whatever. I told him I would take the risk for I was buying the two thousand pounds on my own responsibility. That honey went to London, England, and out of two thousand pounds there was not three

spoiled sections when it reached its destination.

Mr. Hall: You were in company with that.

Mr. McKnight: Not always. He packed it at his home in St. Thomas, it was sent down to Toronto, nobody saw it from St. Thomas to Toronto. Mr. Couse and I were there. We did not open the cases but we shipped them from there to Montreal; we did not follow it to Montreal. Mr. Torrance, the manager of the Dominion Line gave us his assurance that he would see that our goods were properly handled and transhipped from the train to the boat and we took his assurance and left it to him. I had the honor, gentlemen, of setting up with my own hands, perhaps, the largest exhibit of honey that has ever been set up in the world, forty tons of Canadian honey. If your comb honey is in proper shape there is not much danger except in frosty weather when the wax becomes brittle. Something was said as to shipping honey to the North-west. I may say that I have sold nearly all the comb honey I have ever produced there and shipped it there but I took another plan of sending it. I took three of these dozen cases, one on top of the other and I put strips of common lath up the corners and I made a kind of band of lath around each end and that was all I did. At first I used screw nails; I thought it was necessary to fasten these laths very securely to the crates, but I discarded the screw nails after a while as being kind of tedious and used common small wire nails and in all the comb honey I ever shipped to the North-west I have never had a single complaint as to a broken section or a spoiled comb.

At this stage Mr. Hershiser gave the members, at the request of the

President, some further information as to the Pan-American Exposition to be held in Buffalo during this year, after which Mr. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Brown, that the Executive be a committee to confer with the proper authorities and if arrangements can be made that there be an exhibit of honey made at the Pan-American Exposition in 1901.

The President put the motion, which, on a vote having been taken, was declared carried.

Mr. Heise: Moved, seconded by Mr. Newton that the heartiest thanks of this Association be tendered to Mr. Hutchison, not only for his very valuable paper but also for his presence at this convention.

The President put the motion, which, on a vote having been taken, was declared carried amid applause.

Mr. Hutchison: I thank you. You make me feel when I come over here as though I were one of you.

On motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Newton, the meeting adjourned.

Spring-Time.

A dreamy sound of waters
Falling, ever falling,
Voices of sweet song-birds
To each other call'ing,
Flowers all rainbow tinted
Springing, ever springing,
On the vagrant breezes,
Fragrant perfume flinging.

A perfect satisfaction,
A feeling of delight,
A sense of gliding onward
Through regions ever bright.
All balm and bloom and beauty
Like some ambrosial clime,
These are the signs that tell us
Of glorious summer-time.

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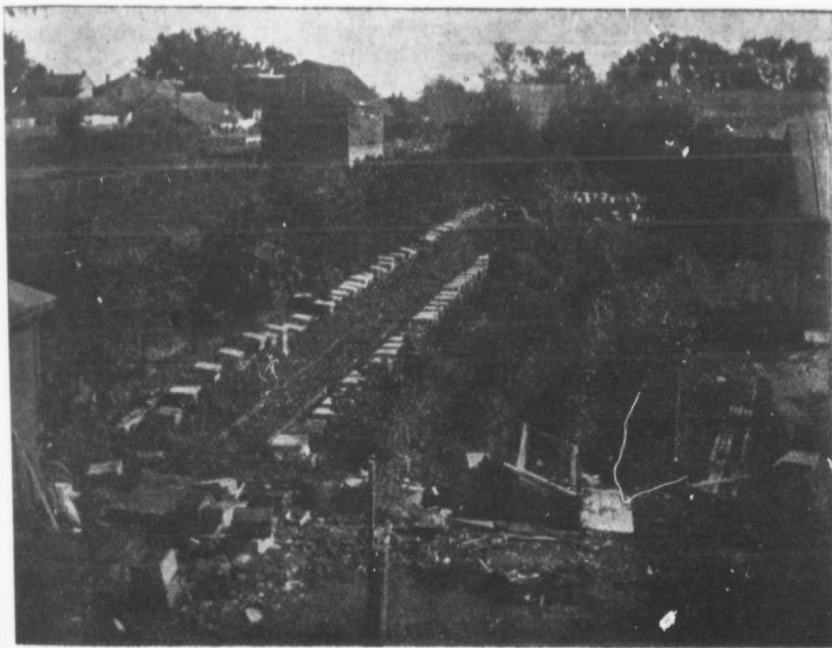
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Apiary of Mr. Eugene Goudron.

We have much pleasure in giving a picture of the apiary of one of our readers, Mr. Eugene Goudron's, of Berthier, Que. Mr. Goudron is one of Quebec's most successful bee-men. He has an apiary of 120 colonies and

Montreal where he finds a ready market for his product Mr. Goudron manages his colonies for comb honey exclusively, depending principally on clover for his surplus. Buckwheat is fairly extensively grown in his district, yielding a fall surplus, besides putting the colonies in good condition for the winter.

Mr. Goudron has for a number of



Apiary of Mr. Eugene Goudron, Berthier, Que.

has been in the business for over seventeen years, during which time he reports good returns for his labor and expenditures. While much credit is due to our friend for his timely and orderly management we think that he is singularly fortunate in his district which lies along the St. Lawrence river, fertile and beautiful, and about 50 miles northeast of

years been a staunch friend of the C. B. J. and, although not taking part in any of the discussions, watches with interest what is transpiring in the agricultural world. His bees have come through the winter in excellent condition, and he is looking and preparing for a good season. We wish him continued success and that his expectations may be fully realized.

ONTARIO
BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
THE
CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

Devoted to the Interests of Bee-Keepers,
Published Monthly by

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(LIMITED)

BRANTFORD - CANADA

Editor, W. J. Craig.

MAY, 1901.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A very pretty French catalogue of roses, plants, flower and vegetable seeds, bee-keepers' supplies, etc., came to us from Mr. Jacques Verrett, Charlesbourg, Que. We congratulate Mr. Verrett on the neatness of his issue.

Mr. A. E. Sewell, of Durban, South Africa, favors us with an interesting article on Bee-keeping in Natal. He has dealt principally with bees in their wild state in this article, but promises a further contribution on other features of South African bee-keeping.

Mr. Carey A. Fawcett, Memramcook, N. B., sending out his annual circular of bee-keepers' supplies, includes a number of useful hints for beginners—"How to make a start in bee-keeping for profit;" How to transfer from box to moveable frame hives;" "How to Italianize an Apiary;" "How to prevent and control

swarming;" "How to produce extracted honey." The idea is a good one and worth copying by supply dealers.

Editor C. B. J.:—

Dear Sir,—Since writing you last the Government has increased the grant to the O.B.K.A. for use at Pan-American to \$500.00. We shall now be in a better position to go ahead to arrange for an exhibit of this season's crop. As soon as I am sure of space we shall start to work at once to arrange for it.

Yours truly,

Jno. Newton.

Thamesford, Ont., April 22nd.

[This "sounds" more like the Ontario Government. We are sure that the members of the O. B. K. A. will stand by their Executive and endeavor to make the exhibit a creditable one.

Bees have come out remarkably well and weather is all that could be desired. The only poor reports that we have had came from Perth and Addington. Mr. C. W. Post, Hastings Co., says: "I never had my bees winter better, all the hives are full of bees and honey." Mr. F. A. Gemmill, Perth Co., "My 92 colonies all alive, wintered on buckwheat." Mr. A. Smith, Huron Co., "My bees came through in splendid condition, not losing a single colony." Mr. John McEwen, Middlesex County, writes, "I have colonies strong enough to put up surplus if it could be got." Mr. J. H. Burns, St. Mary's, reports wintering twenty-four colonies in single walled hives, only losing one. A. A. Ferrier, Renfrew Co., reports

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"seventy-five in good condition twelve of which were packed outside in separate cases, with three inches of sawdust all around. They did not have a fly from Nov. 21 to April 2nd, and during a great part of the winter the thermometer never rose higher than 10 above zero and sometimes fell to 25 below. These came through strong except one colony." Secretary D. Nolan, of the Simcoe B. K. A., writes: "The bees in this locality have wintered well. The loss will not exceed 8 per cent., while the rest are strong and in good condition. They appear to have consumed a small amount of stores. Prospects for the honey crop are good, clover having come through the winter in good shape."

Convention Notice.

Dr. A. B. Mason, Secretary of the National Bee-Keepers Association, sends the following notice:—

Editor Canadian Bee Journal:

Many inquiries have been received by the Executive Committee of the National Bee-keepers' Association regarding the time and place for holding the next convention of the association. The reply has generally been that Buffalo, N. Y., would be the place of meeting; but until this morning, April 17th, the date of meeting has not been settled upon.

On March 2nd the Secretary of the American Pomological Society wrote President Root in part as follows:

"As bee-keepers and fruit-growers have many interests in common which should be considered and discussed with mutual profit, our Executive Committee has instructed me to extend to your Association a cordial

invitation to hold a joint meeting at some time during our session, the exact time to be decided later by correspondence.

At this meeting we would suggest that the subjects of discussion center round the general topic of the mutual relations of bee-keeping and fruit-growing, . . . which can be briefly treated by speakers selected in advance from among our prominent bee-men and fruit-men, . . . in order that a better understanding of these mutual relations may be reached. . . . It has been suggested that a considerable portion of fruit-growers do not yet appreciate the preponderance of the benefit derived. It is felt that a full public discussion of the subject would, therefore, result in good to both industries."

Realizing, as the Executive Committee did, that this was a golden opportunity for presenting the bee-keepers' side of the subject to the representative men of the fruit-growing industry, the invitation of the Pomological Society was at once accepted by the Committee in behalf of the Association.

We have had to delay the fixing of the date for our convention until the Pomological Society had fixed their time of meeting. Our convention will be held on the 10th, 11th and 12th of September next, commencing on Tuesday evening the 10th.

We were at first undecided as to place of meeting, hoping that the G. A. R. would meet at Denver, Col., but when it decided to meet at Cleveland, and we received the invitation of the Pomological Society, we felt that we ought not to miss such a splendid chance to enlighten some of them on the relation of bees to horticulture, and, by meeting at Buffalo, the York state and Canadian bee-keepers would be in easy reach of the place of meeting; so we at once

fixed on Buffalo as the most desirable place.

It has been decided not to have any papers or essays, but to rely wholly on the question-box to bring out the best and most important matters for discussion, so that any one not being able to be at the convention, having any question or questions they may wish to have discussed can send them to the Secretary at any time.

The committee has taken the liberty to request the Secretary of the Ontario Bee-keepers Association to ask the members of that Association who may attend the meeting at Buffalo to bring their badges with them and wear them at our sessions, whether they are members of our Association or not, so that we may feel more as one, and know who our progressive neighbors are.

Information regarding place of meeting, entertainment, and railroad rates will be given as soon as decided upon. Don't be in a hurry about securing a sleeping place during the convention. There is plenty of time, and, later on, better rates can be secured, but if you are in a hurry, write to the Young Men's Christian Association, and don't be bled by "sharks."

A. B. MASON, Sec., B. Toledo, O.

[This is a move in the right direction. Bee-keepers and fruit-growers will have an opportunity of meeting and discussing matters of mutual interest. The time and place are also opportune. Of course we do not want this to take the place of or interfere with our Woodstock meeting in December, but we certainly should have a good representation at this meeting in Buffalo. It will be profitable and no doubt largely attended.

OUT APIARIES.

(Second Article.)

G. A. Deadman, Brussels.

In locating an out apiary select, if possible, a location near a dwelling, and that occupied by those who are on good terms with their neighbors; this will lessen the danger of trouble arising from those who have no regard for the 8th Commandment. I want a place where my bees can remain all the year round. The first three seasons we overcame the swarming difficulty by having our out apiary composed only of swarms, either natural or artificial, in other words, we kept them in the home apiary until they swarmed, or else made them artificially when there were not sufficient natural swarms to make up a load of eighteen colonies. In an apiary of two hundred colonies we had not long to wait, but if there happened to be any lacking we simply went to a strong colony and shook the bees off in part into the hive to contain the swarm, which, for the time being, was placed on the old stand. This was satisfactory when one would happen on a colony that was preparing to swarm, or if all the colonies were to be managed that way, but too frequently we lit upon those that seemingly had no desire to swarm and perhaps would not have swarmed at all. I could discover no difference between these and those that swarmed of their own accord as far as the amount of honey they gathered. In about two weeks we did our first extracting, which, under the shade of the big maples, with the extractor almost touching a hive, was quite an improvement on having to take the frames to the honey house. Very few first swarms will swarm again when run for extracted honey unless the queen is very much confined, should any do so it would be at the close of the honey flow, and the queen

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being clipped they would have to wait for another week at least before a young queen would hatch, so that, there being no fall flow, we were just as well pleased to have them away.

A young queen would have possession and any bees reared would be the very best to strengthen up colonies that required it for winter. I tried this plan for three seasons. One objection was the labor of taking them back and forth but the principle one is that no benefit was derived from the honey flow from various sources in the apiary and during fruit bloom, which, although of no particular value as surplus, yet it stimulated brood rearing and left no empty cells to be filled with white clover. From those three years experience my belief is strengthened that during a good part of the white clover bloom we need not fear much from overstocking, else why was it this out apiary of from 36 to 48 colonies did not give us a larger yield than the home apiary of about four times the number. The season of 1898 was a partial failure but no worse at home than these. Last year however they were left over winter and had the benefit of the spring flow, and the results were satisfactory both there and at home. A wide-awake bee keeper, some six miles distant, with twenty-five colonies has always, until last year, had much more spring gathered honey than ourselves, and as a consequence more surplus clover and less feeding in the fall. I account for the difference last season to my having my seventy colonies at home instead of nearly three times that number. It may be that some others are paying too little attention to this and do not value as they should a surplus or sufficiency of honey that may not be A1 in flavor but the very best for increasing the white clover surplus. The plan we adopted the

last two seasons for controlling the swarms was that of caging the queens. Doolittle has recommended it and described it, but as many of your readers may not be familiar I will do so now. In justice to the plan, however, I should state that the first season the queens were kept confined longer than the allotted time, and we had "no end of trouble;" we could not persuade some to accept a queen, and fertile workers had full swing. Last year we artificially swarmed a few of the strongest colonies and the balance we caged but took good care not to leave them confined longer than ten days with another day or so for the bees to relieve them.

CAGING QUEENS.

A cage is made about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep and the width of a frame. This is covered on three sides with wire cloth, one end is closed and the other has a loose plug about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. In this plug is bored a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch hole or larger, which is closed until such time as you wish the queen to be released, not later than nine or ten days, this hole is filled with "good candy" such as is used when shipping queens and the bees release her by eating this out. The feed does not require to be very stiff, otherwise they will not release her in two days. We had some trouble from this last season. It is claimed for this plan that all desire for swarming will pass away and if honey is stored in the brood chamber it will be quickly carried above. My experience has been that if they begin to store honey in the surplus department they will continue to do so. In running for comb honey we had sufficient empty drawn out sections to give one crate of twenty-one sections to each hive. These worked like a charm and were practically as good as extracting combs. I omitted to state

that before releasing the queen all queen cells are to be destroyed, and for colonies below average strength I like the plan either at home or abroad, if you wish to replace the queen it is a very good time to do it. The colony should be examined a few days after to make sure that they have accepted the queen as they will not always do so. In going through the apiary instead of examining carefully to find out all that had queens, I simply place a caged queen in as many hives as I had queens with me. I then returned to the first one and if the bees were not concerned about her I judged they had one of their own. If, however, they were buzzing and excited it was an indication that they were queenless in which case I would give them one forthwith. I purpose adopting a different plan this season from either I have described and I think it will be better. I would say that the manager of my Owen Sound apiary, who also had charge of this out apiary, says that he is "done with caging queens."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

A SPRING REPORT.

A. Boomer.

At this season of the year readers of Bee Journals (who I presume are mostly Bee-Keepers) are anxious to know how the bees have come out in different sections of the country. This wintering problem with most of us who are engaged in this industry is always a serious one and the results in the spring are often, too often, very disappointing. Last season was a very poor one in this northern section of Ontario, no bass-wood bloom and weather too dry, and where bees were left to take care of themselves, brooding stopped too early, with the result that if there were stores enough in the hive there

were too many old bees to stand our long winters. We therefore anticipated losses and weak colonies in the spring. My loss, however, has not been nearly so bad as I anticipated. Out of 116 colonies placed in the cellar about the 1st of Nov. there were only three dead, two others left the hives soon after being put in, and went into others leaving all their stores intact. On looking them over on April 13th, after being set out, a few were found queenless; these were at once given to other weak colonies, which reduced my number to about 105. A good many of these will need close attention to bring them through the spring.

My winter repository being some ten rods from my yard, I could not very well set them out in the day time, so I studied the probabilities for next day and set them out in the evening, without regard to where they were placed last year, and the day being moderately calm they kept to their places very well.

In looking them over in the afternoon I found one queen balled on top of the frames. I liberated her and left her to take her chances. I presume some other bees from other hives had got in, but in this I may be mistaken. Some more practical bee-keeper may be able to give some other more intelligible reason.

Outdoor wintering in this section proved very disastrous this winter, fully more than half went under, and with some others cellar wintering resulted very little better so that the stock of bees in the country is very much reduced.

I wanted to say something about the style of hive I use and spring management, but I think my article being already very lengthy I will reserve these for another issue of your paper.

Perth Co.

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Communications

DISHONEST "BLACK" ITALIANS.

Editor C.B.J.,

Dear Sir,—If I were a reporter or journalist I could give the C.B.J. an interesting item. I put 70 hives in the cellar and last Saturday (14th inst.) I set out 67 hives; one had been killed by mice and two queenless. There are quite a number light but as soon as convenient I shall couple. I never put out a better lot of bees; perhaps this is due to the fact that I did not store them away myself, as I had the mishap to get kicked out of the ring of action with a broken knee cap last fall.

I never had my bees gather so much in April before as they have done this last week. We had an ice storm in March which broke the bush down very much. My yard is in a sheltered place, quite low. I place my hives on trussels running north and south and face them south-east and south-west. I find the plan works well, not only for my back as I am a 6-footer, but helps the bees when lighting on the wrong box they find no entrance and fly to the next hive to find their home. I am looking forward to a good season. One of my neighbors has been giving me "hail columbia" for keeping "them black Italians," to go to her house and rob her bees. She said she was sure there was 80 lbs. of honey in the boxes when they were set out. What a feast my bees must have had. Can you tell me what to do to make those bees stay at home. If there can be anything done to teach those unruly insects honesty and etiquette it should be published, and if all Mrs. F. says is true her experience should

also be printed. She claims the bees just repeated last year's conduct. "Indade," says she "I remember well last spring of your coming over here and looking into one of my hives and said that it was a fine strong hive and what ever kind of secret you used they followed you home and you done the same thing this year." "Ah," says she, "I be up to you yet, I scalded a pail full of your black Hightalians."

Well I must close. I would like to hear from practical bee-keepers on this question.

Yours,

A. R. McRae.

HONEY CROP REPORTS.

Editor C.B.J.,

Dear Sir,—Your suggestion in March issue C.B.J. in reference to securing a full and regular report on the condition of bees and the honey crop throughout the province, is indeed a very good one, and would, I think, be of considerable benefit to those engaged in bee-keeping if properly carried out.

But, sir, when you come to the practical side of it—the obtaining of anything like a full and comprehensive report—would in most districts involve the director in quite an amount of labor and some little expense. It would be necessary to send reply postal cards to a few of the leading men in the district and having secured their reply (which in some cases is not easily done) the director forwards them to the C.B.J. where they will be published in the form of a bulletin "for bee-keepers only," and mailed direct to those throughout the province who had reported on their work. Now the above round of work and correspondence gives a result of one bulletin and this operation, to be of the great

est benefit, should, I think, be repeated so as to give a weekly bulletin during the months of July and August.

As to the cost of the bulletin from the publishing company and the expense incurred in securing the subject matter for the bulletins, I presume that would come within the jurisdiction of the executive and would require their endorsement before being put into actual practice.

In the event of this project meeting with favor all round, I presume the modus operandi will be changed, simplified and improved by abler minds, but I would like the idea to be always prominent and to run continuously through this whole scheme, that these reports are being collected for the benefit of bee-keepers and the bulletins are being published "For Bee-Keepers only," and in no case nor under any circumstances for newspaper publication.

M. B. Holmes.

Athens, Ont.

HONEY CROP REPORTS, ETC.

Editor C.B.J.,

Re. honey crop reports I think your idea is good, but I do not feel very capable along the line of suggesting the best means of carrying it out. The honey producers, I am sure, would assist you, but, it seems to me there would be too great a time lapse between the time of estimating by the producer and the publishing of the reports, not necessarily so great a drawback in the first report which might be made about June 25th, but, this report would simply be a supposition and would require to be followed by a second in about two weeks, which would give a fair estimate of the clover honey produced. Then could be included the basswood prospects,

which two weeks later could be summed up by a third report giving a fair idea of the amount produced from our two leading white honey sources.

I judge if this could be done and laid quickly before the honey producers it would be a benefit, but the first report carries no weight and by the time the next issue would reach us, Aug. 10th, there would have been considerable honey offered, contracted for, etc., and the season's prices largely influenced, before it became generally known how the crop had averaged. Hoping you will be able to put some good plan to a test.

I remain,

Yours truly,
F. J. Miller.

London, Ont.

CROP REPORTS, PAN-AMERICAN AND OTHER THINGS.

Editor C.B.J.,

Seeing so many well written articles in the last C.B.J. as in many of the previous issues, I feel it a duty to take up the quill, although I am neither a writer nor an orator, and with your permission will touch upon a number of subjects. As all bee-keepers are anxious to know how the bees came through the long, dreary winter just past, I will say that mine went into their winter repository on the 29th of Oct., 1900, 102 colonies, and on the 12th of April I set them out again on their summer stands, losing only two colonies; the others in fine condition, with one week of fine warm weather after setting out gave them a grand chance for house cleaning.

There has been very little frost in the ground in this section of the country and prospects are good for a clover crop.

Re. your suggestions in the March

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number for the Directors reporting to the Secretary and C.B.J. the condition of bee-keeping in their respective districts, I consider is well taken. I have not seen Mr. Armstrong's reply but I notice in the April number Mr. Smith's remarks which cover the ground pretty fully. I am sure it would add considerable interest to our annual meetings if each director could give a full report from his district, such as the number of colonies kept and the amount of honey produced, comb and extracted, and also the prices obtained.

But, as no suggestion has been made by either yourself or Mr. Smith as to how the necessary information can be obtained, perhaps some of our bee-keeping friends would be able to enlighten us on the best possible means of securing the information at the least possible cost. It will be necessary when giving this information to remember that each district comprises from four to six ridings, which covers considerable territory.

I have read with much interest Brother Darling's remarks re. the Pan-American and the Glasgow Exhibitions.

I am under the impression that the honey exhibited at Paris under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa will be again shown at Glasgow, and therefore, under the circumstances, I think our Executive committee acted wisely in not undertaking the setting up of an exhibit at Glasgow.

Now as to the Pan-American. By all means make a creditable exhibit there. There are difficulties to overcome, but wherever there is a determination will there is a way, and no one knows much better than the head of our executive committee the difficulties we had to encounter to

make a creditable exhibit at the late Paris Exposition, but we stuck to our object and surmounted all difficulties, and to-day I have my certificate to show that our honey won the gold medal, and that in course of time we will receive these medals. So I say do not let us rest on our laurels, but see it through and fight our friendly rivals on their own territory.

The Honorable John Dryden poses as the friend of agriculture in all its varied branches and at some of our annual meetings told us he was the "bee-keeper's friend" and yet he offers our association only the paltry sum of \$300—I was going to say \$3000—but, oh, only \$300, to make an exhibit of honey and the products of apiculture. Surely he was only joking our executive when he made them this offer.

Mr. Dickenson's articles along this line is very well written, yet in the face of so many difficulties and the fact that our honey which was exhibited at Paris may be shown at Glasgow I think he will excuse the executive committee for not putting up an exhibit there, and he knows full well that if we win the laurels at the Pan-American that the British consumer and dealer will learn of it.

Well done Mac., that was a good article on pages 233 and 234, April C.B.J. I must also congratulate our esteemed friend Mr. M. B. Holmes, on the beautiful frontispiece he makes to the American B. J. April 18th, 1901, and would suggest that our own C.B.J. shew our apicultural leaders to the world in the same light that the other fellows see them, it might accomplish some good.

W. J. Brown,

Prescott Co., Ont.

April 22nd, 1901.

Questions and Answers

[Questions to be answered in these columns should be sent to us not later than the 15th of each month in order to insure their answer appearing in the following issue. We wish to make this department as useful to our readers as possible and a reliable source of information. For the present at least, the replies will be procured from various sources.]

Managing an Apiary for Extracted Honey.

Question.—I have ten colonies of bees in eight frame Langstroth hives from which I wish to produce extracted honey. It being contended by some that the eight frame hive alone is too small to produce the best results I have decided for the coming season to proceed as follows :—I will add a super with eight frames of comb to each hive without an excluder between as soon as the bees seem crowded for room, either for storing honey or brood raising, thus giving a sixteen frame brood chamber. At the commencement of clover bloom I will extract all honey, if any, in the super and put an excluder over the brood nest to keep the queen below, allowing all brood in the super to hatch out when the super can then be filled with honey. Should they swarm, I will put the swarm on the stand of the parent colony and remove the old hive to a new location after putting the super on the swarm with an excluder over the swarm. Is that as good a plan as could be adopted, or, if there is a better, I think it would be interesting to the readers of the C.B.J. to know the best method to adopt.

R. C. B.

Eglington, Ont.

ANSWER.—R. C. B. after giving the

system that he had decided on for the coming season, asks if that is as good a plan as could be adopted. I cannot say that I would care to have the surplus combs used for a brood nest at any season of the year. If run on the above plan I would expect a genuine case of swarming about the 20th of June. For best results and to keep down swarming the 8 frame Langstroth, in my estimation, is not large enough. For best results in producing extracted honey I would leave one top storey on for brooding, as suggested, and put one above it with a queen excluder between, and after basswood commenced yielding I would place the queen excluder between the brood nest and lower top story. I think the above system would give best results in extracted honey and keep down the swarming impulse, which is a great factor in producing any kind of honey.

C. W. Post.

Trenton, Ont.

Another having seen the above question suggests the following :

Do not use two chambers for brood alone. Unless very strong the bees are always inclined to make primary use of the upper story and if any portion of the two chambers should in a measure be deserted it will be the lower story, spoiling all the combs, to a certain extent at least, for white surplus honey. Put the queen excluder on the body of the hive, raise full combs of capped, or nearly capped brood, as room is required below, placing them in the super giving empty combs or putting full sheets of foundation below. In this way the bees will brood in fewer combs, the brood chamber will be fully occupied and the bees can store surplus honey in the remaining combs.

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Bees on Shares.

QUESTION.—“A wants “B” to take his bees on shares, “B” to do all the work, find the necessary supplies, sell the honey and hand over to “A” his share of the net profits at the close of the season. What should “A’s” share consist of?

Haldimand.

ANSWER.—“A” supplies the bees, “B” provides the necessary supplies, does the work, and leaves the colonies in proper condition for wintering. We would say let “A” and “B” share equally in the surplus honey and in the increase. If “A” wishes his share in cash let “B” retain the honey at regular wholesale prices, and his share of the increase at a valuation agreed upon at the beginning of the season.—[Ed.]

We copy the following from 1899 edition “A. B. C. of Bee Culture,” page 50:

There are cases, doubtless, where it is advantageous to both parties to



KEEPING BEES ON SHARES.

let bees out on shares; but as a general thing I would advise owning your bees, even though it be but a single colony, before you commence to build up an apiary. It almost

always happens that one of the parties is dissatisfied; and, as is frequently the case with such partnership arrangements, both the parties have been wronged, to hear their story for it.

I believe it is customary for one of the partners to furnish the bees, and the other to do the work; at the end of the season, every thing is divided equally. If new hives, Italian queens, etc., are to be used, the expense is equally divided. The division of stock is usually made as soon as the honey season is over, and each party takes his chances of wintering. To prevent any misunderstanding, I would advise that the whole agreement be put in writing, and that whenever something turns up for which no provision has been made, some agreement be made in regard to it, and that this be put in writing also. Instead of inquiring what other folks do, arrange the matter just as YOU can agree, and make up your minds in the outset that you are going to remain good friends, even if it costs all the bees and your whole summer's work. Don't let it turn out as shown in the cut.

The Honey Bee in Natal.

The honey bee exists in Natal chiefly in a wild state, the colonies being very numerous and are found in all kinds of places, many of which would appear most unsuitable for their welfare, and in some cases very inconvenient to the owners of the property occupied.

On the coast the trees in the bush afford good accommodation, but they have already found that the frame houses which are very plentiful on sugar estates and along the line of railway were specially erected for their

use. These are built of the usual galvanized corrugated iron, lined with ceiling boards, having a space of $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. between which with the upright and cross pieces form a most convenient dwelling of about 4 ft. square, a missing screw or badly jointed iron giving an entrance. Colonies under these conditions build beautiful comb, straight and long and very wide, suited for transferring into frames.

Further up country they live in rocky places and also in holes in the ground that have been excavated by ant bears, where, however, they suffer from grass fires that sweep the country in the dry season. The large number of colonies give one the idea, at first, that they would form a valuable nucleus from which to start an apiary on a large scale and although this is the case to some extent there is so much uncertainty as to their behavior that their value is greatly minimised. Apart from the initial difficulty of getting out the colony, which all bee-keepers will allow is the most troublesome and disagreeable task in the pursuit, it is very hard to persuade them to remain in the hive. Sometimes they swarm out next day but more often a few days after hiving, when they have cleared up the brood and the apiarist flatters himself that they had settled down, and then nothing will induce them to remain.

They vary in marking, some being black and others all grades up to three yellow bands. They differ too in size, the queen especially, some of which are very small and go through the ordinary excluder zinc.

In spite of difficulties a good many have been domesticated in bar-frame hives and as the climate is favorable for increase the number will be extended in time, as when a generation has been raised in the hive they seem to lose the propensity for

swarming out.

The hives in use are generally home-made copies of the bar-frame hive, single walled and the frames 14 in. by $8\frac{1}{2}$ in., but some use the Langstroth frame; and I do not suppose there are more than a hundred scattered about the colony.

As regards the honey flow there is a want of any definite source at some settled period of the year. Flowers bloom all the year round, more or less, and the time of plenty is regulated by the rain fall which is so uncertain that there may be a full month difference between the time of flowering of some particular plant in consecutive years, so that we may work up a hive for nothing or be caught napping which is far from satisfactory.

The large variety of flowers also spoil the honey, as some kinds have a very disagreeable taste, one especially, being like licorice, and another very bitter. There is, however, one plant that is an exception—it is known as the buckweed as it is a favorite food for buck and cattle, but it only flowers in quantity once in seven years and then gives a very large honey flow.

There is a great deal yet to be done before a fair test can be made of bee-keeping as a source of income as very little has been done to ascertain sources of honey flow in different parts and at various altitudes, and what has been done in the establishment of apiaries is now wiped out by the war.

A. C. SEWELL.

Durban,
March 15th, 1901.

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Rubbing a hot laundry iron over top cloths diffusing the propolis is a preventative to bees gnawing them.

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The ABC of Bee Culture

We have a number of copies of Root's A B C of Bee Culture 1899 edition which we will clear out at 90c. per vol. post free, or with the "Canadian Bee Journal" 1 year for \$1.65. . . .

CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL
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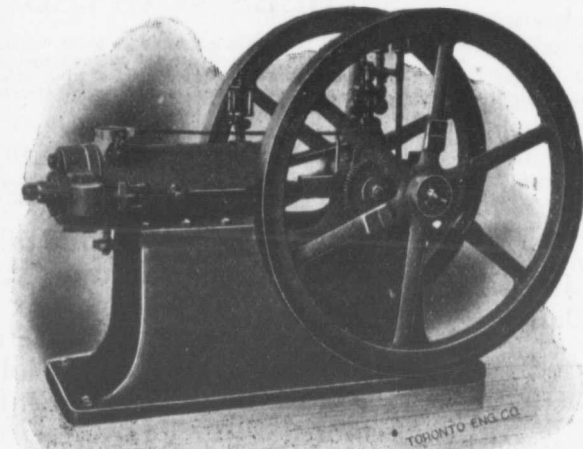
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