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CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

NEW SERIES
VOL. II, No. 7.

BRANTFORD, ONT., JAN., 1895.

WHOLE No.
359.

The annual meeting of the Ontario Bee-keepers Association promises to be of unusual interest. The Ontario Bee-keepers Convention. Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, has kindly consented to be present and give an address. We believe this is the first time in the history of the association that a session of its members has been thus honored. From a notice on another page it will be seen that a more than average number of its prominent members will likely be present, this alone should be a sufficient attraction. When we add to the announcement that E. R. Root, associate editor of *Gleanings in Bee Culture*, expects to be present throughout the entire meeting, also W. Z. Hutchinson, of the *Review*, clothed in his old time vigor of mind, will be there to take part in the programme and debates, we feel sure the attendance will be very large. The evening of 23rd Jan'y, the second day of the convention is an open meeting, Messrs. F. A. Gemmill, John Myers with their friends at Stratford have done noble work, there will be appropriate music "bee songs," etc., first and last and in between. The Hon. John Dryden will give an address.

R. F. Holtermann has at his own expense engaged the lantern which Mr. Adam Brown, Ex-M. P. and Postmaster, Hamilton, had for his World's Fair Lectures. Some forty beautiful and interesting lime light views will be shown and a lecture given throwing light upon the natural history of the bee, its relation to flowers,

the value of honey and of bee-keeping generally. A large hall has been engaged which will be free to all. A large number of the most intelligent citizens of Stratford and surrounding country have with pleasure accepted invitations to be present. The Stratford convention promises to be one long to be remembered and of practical value to those attending.—COME.

Those not coming should send their membership fee \$1 at once to the Secretary Wm. Couse, Streetsville, Ont.

The Secretary, Wm. Couse, Streetsville, has made the necessary arrangements for reduced railway fares. Those coming want to purchase a single ticket to Stratford as soon as they reach Canadian territory and at the same time get a certificate from the ticket agent. If fifty attend, and we expect many more, the return ticket will only be one third single fare, otherwise two thirds single fare.

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It was our good fortune to attend a portion of the Sheep Breeders' and Swine Breeders' Convention held

The Annual at Guelph, during the past month. A new and interesting feature adopted there was for one member to take the annual report in hand and pass criticism upon the previous years papers, discussions and material reported. To what extent the matter contained in that report embodied the ideas of the organization, how far the critic thought the matter therein contained would be of value or to injure, the calling. This was followed by an express-

son of the opinions of other members. At the close the president, F. W. Hodson, made the statement that this proceeding was perhaps the most valuable feature of the entire convention and it is the intention to make this an annual feature. Could the same policy not be pursued to advantage by the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association.

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Least some of our friends might be afraid to visit the North American Bee-Keepers' Convention during the time that the Toronto Industrial Exhibition is held

The North American
at Toronto.

Toronto Industrial
Exhibition is held

we take notice of the following editorial in the *American Bee-Keeper*:

"A good deal of importance is placed by some papers on the probability of greatly reduced rates of railroad fare to Toronto next year, for those attending the North American Bee-Keepers' Convention on account of its being held during the Industrial Fair. Possibly a small amount can be saved in that way by those who are willing to put up with the inconveniences of travelling in second class coaches on excursion trains but all this will be more than offset by the extra high rates of board which are always charged at that time. The writer visited the fair last September and his experience in that direction was anything but pleasant. We arrived at 8 o'clock in the evening and could find nothing better than a cot in the hallway at any of the numerous hotels. Finally we were directed to a private house where we were informed good accommodations could be procured. On reaching the house we were so pleased to find a place to sleep that the price of lodging was not mentioned. We staid there two nights and on enquiring the amount of charges when we were ready to leave, we were confounded by the information that "\$2 a night was the charge but that they had been offered \$3 just after we arrived." From our own experience we unhesitatingly assert that Chicago World's Fair prices were "not in it" with Toronto. It is always best to bargain for your board at Toronto before you get it.

Friend Merrill we are surprised, but—tell it not in Canada, least the young men and maidens rejoice—that at last a Canadian has been able to get the better of an American cousin. In Canada it is generally considered that bargains too frequently result the other way. But laying all jokes

aside in future when bee-keepers propose visiting the Toronto Industrial Exhibition drop brother Holtermann a card and he will do his best to find a comfortable, convenient and moderate boarding place for you, or better still, he is generally at the Toronto Industrial Exhibition in the Honey Department, call on him there and he will post you. For years, almost every year for the last fourteen years, we have attended the Industrial Exhibition in Toronto, and it is the first time we have heard of very high rates being charged. Mr. O. Herscheiser Buffalo, boarded at our boarding house this fall, within about half a mile of the exhibition grounds. The place was comfortable, we paid by the week \$3.50, he paid for a day or so at the rate of 25 cts. for bed and 25 cts. for meals. Last year we got close to the grounds a dinner of turkey, celery, etc., etc. A good dinner, 15 cents. The hotels may on certain days be crowded that is hotels near the centre of the city to which everybody rushes. The details for that convention have of course to be worked out, but our idea at present is to get a hall not very far from the ground, in the same vicinity, there are good hotels at reasonable rates, and if a party of six, eight or ten want a good boarding house close to the hotel and hall at a rate of \$1.00 per day or less probably, we will be able to direct you to them. Do not be afraid to come on the score of exorbitant rates, and if you have no friend and no other pointer and visit a strange city or deal with strangers take this with you:—*Before you buy anything ask the price.*

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We know of several shipments of honey to Europe during the past few months and at prices making this Our Foreign market preferable to our own lowest wholesale market. We have even been willing to give our readers the benefit of any information we possessed about foreign markets. At the annual meeting of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association last year the largest list of foreign honey dealers

ever published in Canada was given by us to the public and we are pleased that many availed themselves of that information. The Gould, Shapley & Muir Co. (L^{td}.) have always been in entire sympathy with our efforts in this direction and they have handed over for publication the letters found under *correspondence*. We trust all who have a fair surplus to dispose of will write these parties at once. C. O. F., we believe, means freight paid to Liverpool. Of course, there is probably little use giving prices on beeswax, there are several other countries we cannot compete with in this line. You can get freight rates to Liverpool from the agent at your railroad station. Expenses might be reduced by several shipping together or shipping separately to Montreal and then jointly. If you do not care to ship alone send us word of the amount you have to dispose of and its quality, how you are prepared to ship, in cans, if so what size, or in barrels and price. If none on hand now, what about next season. We want to make no money out of this deal only promote the prosperity of bee-keeping in Canada. This is in the interest of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL and in return the Journal we feel sure will have the hearty support of Canadian bee-keepers. There is an old motto which may partially apply to the case—"United we stand, divided we fall."

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Enquiries have come in regarding the medals and diplomas awarded to bee-keepers at the World's

The World's Fair, Chicago. Some Medals & Diplomas were beginning to think that they will never see the Medals, and Diplomas, and still more are convinced that they have well nigh outlived their usefulness before birth. The following letter will be of interest:—

Ottawa, 4th Dec., 1894.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, addressed to the Honorable, the Minister of Agriculture, asking to be informed as to when Medals and Diplomas awarded at the

late World's Columbian Exposition are likely to issue.

The latest word received from the Exposition authorities in Washington, intimates that it is hoped the issue will be made this month. The delay, it appears, has been caused by the war troubles in Japan, as they are dependent upon that country for the necessary supply of parchment required. I have the honour to be Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. L. JARVIS,

For Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

Some of these awards were made over a year and six months ago, all of them over a year ago. The Japanese war did not break out until long after the Diplomas should have been sent out, so our readers are indirectly in possession of a great state secret. The warriors in Japan must have been preparing for a long time for the struggle they have been engaged in—Lesson—. Do not depend upon one country alone for parchment or during a prolonged struggle the country will be able to make no more lawyers, doctors, B. S. A's, L. L. D's, etc. etc. Our Washington friends have framed a very good excuse, the question is when shall we be able to frame our Diplomas.

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In the *American Bee Journal* we find the following query:

1. Which is best as cover
Comb Honey. for sections, enameled cloth, small strips of glass laid over the openings, or a quarter inch bee-space cover?
2. Why?

In the answers twelve make use of appliances which give them no bee-space over the sections. Ten have a space over the sections and two have no particular choice. Of those who undertake to reply to the second part of the question six, of those who favor no space urge convenience and five cleanliness. Of those who favor a space five urge convenience and five cleanliness, and none of those who favor a bee-space over the sections give as a reason that better filled sections are possible. A year ago or more, we gave the following as

some of the important points in the production of comb honey. A clean hive and combs not too old, the newer the better.

Comb foundation filling the section as completely as possible, putting it in true and just allow it to swing clear in the section from the top bar.

Ventilation not through the top of hive, but only through the lower portion.

We have this year no reason to change our minds on the above our conclusions are rather confirmed. In addition we recognize more than ever the importance of having a quarter inch space above the sections. As far as cleanliness is concerned we see no great difference when the top bar of the section becomes travel stained, the comb honey is also no longer white, we have tried both plans extensively and favor the bee-space. By using the space above and thus giving the bees a passage way over the sections they are less liable to leave what we call "pop holes" in the sections. It may of course be claimed, although the grounds are not good, that an extremely well filled section does not add to the commercial value of the comb honey. This may be true but if we can raise the general standard in the country, much will be gained. An even weight of sections, a pleased eye, and greater safety in shipping which is secured in a well fastened section are things to be desired, and will add to the rapidity with which comb honey is marketed. If for no other than selfish reasons everyone should strive to raise the standard of our honey both comb and extracted. To argue that such information will enable others to produce as good an article as our own is short sighted.

Coming Items of Interest.

Amongst other items of interest in the next number of THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL will appear an article by C. W. Post, Trenton.—"An Experiment in Wintering with 400 Colonies of Bees"; "Queen Rearing," continued from the British Bee Journal; "Out-Door Wintering with Least Labor," Will Ellis, St. Davids; "Something New," W. C. Wells, Ont.; "Convention Reports."

Bees Infuriated—What To Do.

—S. T. Pettit.

On page 588, *American Bee Journal* Query No. 947, reads—What would you do, suppose the bees in your apiary had become unmanageable by careless handling, accident or otherwise, so that they would sting everything in sight?

2. Have you ever known such a state of affairs in your experience?

I may say that I was a good deal interested in reading the 27 answers; then it occurred to me that a few additional suggestions might be helpful.

P. H. Elwood says "run," but I would not do that, for running greatly encourages them to sting. There is much of human nature in bees. Seven say subdue them with smoke, and some would use water as well. Eight would wait until they got over their fury. Some other answers are also given. Prof. Cook says, "I should use smoke and if that failed, use a bee tent which always subdues even the most vicious." To this I reply that probably not one-half of the bee keepers in America have tents, and I am one of them; then too, by the time you could get your tent in position your bees would be "just awful."

G. M. Doolittle says "leave them severely alone for two weeks and they will forget all about it." So they will, but if I open a hive for any purpose. I want to go right on with it at once, and then there may be other hives near by that need immediate attention, and the plan of waiting may be attended with inconvenience and loss. My remedy is short, easy and sure.

HOW TO DO IT.

Close the hive quickly, entrance and all. Now turn the smoker on and about yourself, and the bees that are out, as they suppose upon the important duty of self preservation, will very soon return to the hive, and finding themselves shut out, like a branch severed from the vine, will immediately begin to weaken, droop and wither, and their courage and viciousness are speedily gone. Now their legs seem shorter and their wings are flat on their backs, and poor things, they are in a bewildered and forlorn frame of mind, and you cannot make them fly and sting. But not so yet with those shut in the hive; they are full of rage and fight. Now give at the entrance (don't let any bees out) several heavy puffs of smoke, and rap on the hive and smoke alternately for one minute.

Now open the entrance about 4 inches and give a little more smoke and a little more rapping, and in one minute from opening entrance, open the hive and go on with your work just as though nothing out of the ordinary had occurred and all is serene. But if other hives were participating in the fracas, they should also have been closed at first and given smoke on opening. The cases are exceedingly rare where any rapping is necessary, but it does no harm and makes your conquest more complete.

To the second question give answer in the affirmative. Now, with due respect, I must say that these answers surprise me not a little, for when the hive or hives can be quickly closed, I question if ever there was a case where the bees became "unmanageable" except in cases like that of R. L. Taylor's, where the number was too great to be promptly operated upon. In that case his advice is good to let them cool down. Three minutes of proper treatment, I believe, will conquer the worst case imaginable and render the bees perfectly tractable and also soften their temper for the future.

Belmont, Ont., Dec. 17th 1891.

Annual Meeting of Ontario Bee-Keeper's Association, Stratford.

STREETSVILLE, Dec 4th, 1891.

Editor CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL:

Dear Sir,—I have replies from all parties asked to take part in the programme of our annual meeting which will be held in the County Council Chambers of the Court House at Stratford on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of January, 1895.

All persons interested in bee-keeping are cordially invited to attend. The probabilities are there will be one of the best conventions in Stratford that the association has held. There have been quite a number of persons consent to take part in the programme which is as follows:

The Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture,—an address. Evening of 23rd.

J. K. Darling, Almonte, "Some Difficulties."

R. F. Holtermann, Vice-Pres. O. B. K. A. and Pres. North American B. K. Asso., will give a lecture on the evening of the 23rd. Illustrated by lime light views, subject, "Bee-Keeping, Flowers and Honey."

W. Z. Hutchinson, Flint, Mich., editor Review, "Will the Future of Bee-Keeping Differ from the Past."

E. R. Root, Medina, Ohio editor of Gleanings in Bee Culture, subject not yet known.

President Pickett, an address.

R. McKnight will assist in making the evenings pleasant by an address or something instructive. Allen Pringle will read a paper on "Education." A. E. Sherrington will read a paper on "Conventions." Messrs. John Myers and F. A. Gommell, Stratford, will read papers or give addresses.

Arrangements have been made with the proprietors of the Windsor Hotel, the best in the city, at \$1.00 per day.

REDUCED RAILROAD RATES.

Arrangements have been made with the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Railroad for reduced rates upon the following terms. Those coming to the convention purchase full fare single tickets to Stratford and at the same time ask the agent for a railroad certificate. Upon the certificate being properly filled out by the secretary and fifty having purchased tickets to Stratford, the return fare will be one-third single fare. If less than fifty have purchased tickets, the return fare will be two-thirds single fare. So nothing can be lost by buying the tickets in the above manner and it appears to be certain much will be gained.

Members will please remit to my address their renewal fee of \$1.00 at their earliest convenience and also any person wishing to join the association will please forward one dollar. By giving the above insertion in THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL you will oblige,

Yours truly,

Wm. COUSE,

Sec. Ontario Bee-keepers' Asso.

[The directors' meeting will be held at 9.30 a. m. of the 22nd. Meeting of members at the close of the directors' meeting, so the President writes.—Ed.]

An Offer Notice.

We are prepared to make the following liberal offer, but only for a limited time. THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, Gleaning in Bee Culture and Root's A B C of Bee Culture, in cloth, post paid from Medina, Ohio, \$2.50. The above, only the book parchment bound, \$2.80. Or THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL one year and above book in cloth, \$1.75, in parchment \$1.55. Of course we are prepared to supply the above book from our office in cloth at the usual price \$1.25, post paid. This is a good offer and should be appreciated.

A little bit of advertising,

A little printers' ink,

Will weld a chain of patronage,
Link by link.

Importance of Apiculture At Experiment Stations.

(R. L. Taylor.)

There seems to be no inconsiderable difficulty in getting for apiculture a foothold at our experiment station, and when that is secured, its tenure generally, so far as I know, seems to be of a very uncertain character. Why this should be so, if the importance of the pursuit is considered, appears to be somewhat of a marvel.

To be sure the business is not overly popular, for which state of things two reasons may be assigned. The first reason is that the bee will defend its abode with its sting. To the skilled apiarist this reason has no force; do not cattle use their horns to defend themselves? Indeed, do they not often use them to gratify wanton anger? But no one thinks of assigning that as a reason why the production of cattle should not be encouraged. But ignorance sees in the honey bee one whose hand is against every living thing, and in its sting an arrow ever ready at the string and ever laden with fatal poison. The other reason is that the bee is a free commoner. There are no limits or restrictions as to its pasture, but time and the endurance of her wing. She gathers as freely from the clover and the apple tree of the envious neighbor, or the mortal enemy of her owner, as she does from his own. The neighbor and enemy behold it with envy or anger ever magnified by their apparent helplessness. They see in the tons of honey piled on her owner's hives the measure of the depletion of their own mows and bins. The light that reveals the bee getting little but giving much in the fertility of the tree and the clover, that shows her owner receiving little, or nothing, of value to them, but often heaping up their baskets and bins, has not yet found their eye. So ignorance again would welcome the absence of the bee. These reasons give rise to a third, and that is the small estimation in which the business is held, and therefore the low degree of its importance. Some even look upon the bee-keeper as little better than a fresbooter—as one who would steal if he had the courage and skill.

It is hardly worth while to argue to beekeepers the invalidity of these reasons, but as to one point already mentioned—the importance of bee-keeping—a few suggestions may not be without their use. I need not dwell on the magnitude of the business of bee-keeping in itself. Most intelligent bee-

keepers appreciate that in some degree. But, perhaps, it would be well to jog our memories, even on that point. What other specialty calls together so many and such wide-awake conventions as does bee-keeping? or supports so many class journals? or is adapted so generally to all localities? or whose product is so purely from what would otherwise be only waste? It creates a finished product—a food of the highest value both for sustenance and health out of what is otherwise without value and must be an entire loss. Bee-keeping ought surely to stand well with the people in view of its direct product alone as compared with other rural pursuits.

But great as is the gain to the country in the product of bee-keeping, no doubt the advantage arising from the ministry of the bees in causing fruitfulness to follow bloom is immensely greater. Anyone who gives even a little attention to this matter in the time of fruit bloom, comparing the fruitfulness and perfection of fruit of those plants and trees which have been frequented by the bees with that of those which from location or inclemency of weather have been deprived of their visitations during the time of bloom, will readily see that this ministry, in a great country devoted everywhere to fruit-growing, must be of almost incalculable value. Many striking instances proving the truth of this might be adduced, but that is unnecessary here, as the readers of apicultural publications are familiar with the subject.

What shall we do with these facts, clothed as they are with such grave import?

In spite of them Apiculture has received as yet but meagre recognition at our experiment stations, or, oftener, no recognition at all. It is not to be wondered at, then, that it is unpopular. Let a man, however worthy he may be, be persistently slighted and treated with neglect by a few of his prominent acquaintances, and how his reputation will wane! Why should not apiculture be placed on an equal footing at our stations with potato-growing and the manufacture of cheese, with the production of strawberries or seed corn? The experiments carried on in all these things to gain new knowledge calculated to secure higher success, are invaluable, but they should not be heard to deny the validity of apiculture's claim to equal recognition.

Perhaps beekeepers have themselves principally to blame for the condition of things. Their claim will certainly not be allowed until they themselves feel its justness and assert it with a vigor and firmness which can only come from a consciousness of its

equity. Let the beekeeper be led to withdraw his eyes from the little pile he gets from the product of his hives and be fed with a knowledge of what his vocation does for his country in adding to its store of delicious and health-giving food and in increasing its fruits and seeds, and his freedom from proscription will not be long delayed.

Again, in its modern phase apiculture is a comparatively new industry. For ages the box, or other comb-bound hive, kept faithful watch over most of the secrets of the honey-bee. It is but recently that these secrets are becoming open, but there are still many important knotty questions about the bee and the new appliances of the hive that are in pressing need of final answers. There is a wide field here yet to be explored. Shall bee-keepers alone of those engaged in rural pursuits be left to make the explorations unaided, though thus handicapped by many new things?

To be sure, an opening has been made and something has been granted, but united and persistent efforts ought, for an allowance, commensurate with the work for a more permanent standing and for recognition at many more of the North American Experiment stations.

The North West.

During last winter and this so far, it has been my privilege to do a good deal of travelling through the province of Manitoba and North West Territories, and have occasionally met a brother bee-keeper. I thought that possibly if I were to send you a few lines in reference to bee-keeping in a part of our country where the mercury loves to creep down out of sight, or in other words 40 or 50 degrees below zero, it might be interesting to you and your readers. I had about formed in my own mind a poor opinion of this western part of our country as far as bee-keeping was concerned, but thought best to interview two or three parties who have a practical experience in connection with our industry here before writing you.

I wrote two gentlemen here, who I believe have as good an idea of bee-keeping as anyone in the province, and received a very satisfactory answer from one of them, the substance of which I give, and should I receive a reply from the other gentleman, I shall be pleased to give you the benefit of his experience in this province if you so desire.

I shall now give you the experience of Mr. Gilbert Gunn, who was born in Manitoba

and has kept bees here for the last seven years. Mr. Gunn keeps a supply of hives, sections, etc., etc., for those of the province who choose to avail themselves of the opportunity to procure supplies close at home and has used himself the Heddon, Jones and Combination, but prefers the Jones single-walled hive and is using that now. Mr. Gunn tells me he never saw a tame bee till he started bee-keeping seven years ago and he knew little or nothing about them at that time, and having all to learn, he has, as we may well suppose, seen the shadow as well as the sunshine of bee culture.

He worked away with fair success till the fall of 1891 found him with 16 colonies which he wintered in the cellar and brought out 12 in the spring, from which he received 20 swarms and 1,200 pounds of honey. The following fall he did not prepare the bees properly for winter and lost as a consequence 16 colonies. During the last two years Mr. Gunn has not paid the attention to the bees that they merited, consequently they have become greatly reduced in numbers, he having only four colonies this last spring, one of which he sold, leaving him three from which he took 435 pounds of extracted honey.

He keeps the Italian bee and winters in the cellar under his house, and said in answer to the following question.—Do you not find the winter very hard on the bees, "as far as I know it is not as hard as the Ontario winter. Of course we can't winter outside."

His honey is all extracted and gathered principally from the Canada thistle, golden rod and wolf-berry and is mostly bright in color, the golden rod however being dark.

I am pleased to find that they have prizes offered for honey at the Provincial Exhibition held here in Winnipeg as well as down east, and it appears that Mr. Gunn has not been letting the other bee-keepers have it all their own way with the prizes, as he got the best of one of Mr. D. A. Jones' right hand men.

The prairie here in summer is said to be literally covered with wild flowers for several months, and of course the bees would make some honey from them, but I have wondered if the nectar was in proportion to the flowers. The almost unceasing hot winds of summer and terrible cold of winter, I had thought too much for any bees, but Mr. Gunn's experience says not so.

CANADIAN RAMBLER.

I would like to do all I can to help THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL with which I am well pleased. W. A. HILLSDON.

Ingersoll, Nov. 26th, 1894.

Bee-Keeping in the Northern Part of Europe, Especially Sweden.

[By Johan Forssell, Secretary Bee Association, Sweden, Europe.]

The receipt of THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL gives me very much pleasure. I have found it a very good paper. With your permission, I will give some information about bee-keeping in the northern part of Europe and especially Sweden.

Bee-keeping is not undertaken in countries as far north as with us in Sweden. My apiary is situated at 59½ north latitude, nearly the same latitude as Cape Chudleigh on Labrador, but bee-keeping is general here up to 62°. Occasional bee-keepers are to be found up to the polar circle. More northerly live wild bees, so our celebrated north polar traveller, Prof. A. E. Norden-skiöld, informs us. He saw wild bees and other hymenoptera at the North Cape, situated at 71° north latitude. It should surely be of greater interest to bee-keepers to have a swarm of bees at North Cape than to read of the hunts for the hitherto resultless *Apis dorsata* in the East Indies and Ceylon. I shall, as opportunity offers, through Professor N., make a more minute study of the bees at the North Cape and report.

In spite of the northerly situation, the long winters and very cold temperature, the bees here winter on their summer stands. This proves that the northern bees have greater conservative energy and a given number will produce and maintain a much larger amount of heat than the same number of another race. Here is the sole reason why these bees are always more ready to take the supers and are better comb builders than others though they may be occupying the same space in the hive with less than half the population. Many writers on bees say that the heat which the bees produce is analogous to the consumed food, but this is not the case. The constitution of the variety of bees is in this case of very great influence. The methods of bee-keeping in Sweden shall follow in other articles.

Naslund & Kolback, Aug. 11th, 1891.

Another Foreign Purchaser.

We are pleased to furnish our readers with the address of another dealer who wishes to purchase Canadian honey. We believe he is reliable, but those corresponding may as well ask for references. The address is T. Musgrave, Rock Lodge—Blackrock, Cork, Ireland. Send quotations on light or dark honey, in barrels or in cans.

That Honey-Bee Concert.

(For Canadian Bee Journal.)

I observe by the December issue of the Canadian Bee Journal the statement that the President, Mr. Pickett, and Secretary Couso are doing all in their power to get up a good programme for the coming Ontario Beekeepers' Convention, which is to be held in Stratford on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of January next.

Personally, I am quite well aware of such being the case, having had considerable correspondence with both gentlemen in regard to this and other matters pertaining to the welfare of said convention, and have concluded my expectations will be fully realized, insofar as this convention being the very best since its organization.

Now, while those gentlemen have thus been at work, Stratford has not been by any means idle. In this connection it may not be out of place to here state that while I am a great advocate of conventions, that for some years past I have also been of the opinion that one of the three days' sessions should be thrown open to the public, and that suitable attractions should be offered for securing a good attendance; in fact, to all intents and purposes, an educational entertainment, or, for want of a more appropriate name, it may be termed a Honey Bee Concert, to induce, so far as possible, those in the locality or vicinity of the convention to become more thoroughly acquainted with the honey bee and educated as to the value of honey as a very important and nourishing food for the human system.

Most people nowadays are dubbed cranks, and not wishing to be an exception to the general rule, I may as well admit my hobby as above stated. I must admit at the same time that on several occasions my programme has to some extent been attempted notably at Walkerton and Lindsay, but my pet scheme has not yet reached the acme of my ambition in this direction. I have, therefore, concluded that being a resident of Stratford and the Association having its meeting here, that now was my opportunity of endeavoring to show myself to the best advantage coupled with what I thought was expected of me. As a natural consequence I concluded it not best to be ill nor have I been so. Through the kindness of Mr. Davidson, County Clerk of Perth the commodious Council Chamber in the new Court house, with the use of the court room, should it be necessary for want of sufficient accommodation, was willingly proffered. The next thing was to secure a convenient hall for the concert. Application was next made for the use of the City

Hall, and it had been engaged for the whole week by some comic opera troupe, so that other sources had to be depended upon. Several large halls were at command, but drawbacks were attached, the principal one being that they required to be rented. Thinking over the matter, it occurred to me that it was to a great extent educational, could not the Collegiate Institute lecture room be secured, as it possessed all the requirements, even to a piano and magic lantern. I accordingly resolved to make an effort in that direction, and after interviewing one of the trustees, I was requested to present myself at the meeting of the board and explain my position. In company with Mr. J. Myers I did so, and without a dissenting voice all acquiesced in my project, for the reasons already given, viz: that it was an educational affair, and the lecture room and all its conveniences were granted free gratis. So much having been done there was, however, yet more to be had, but as success had already paved the way, I saw no obstacle in view of proceeding still further, and as ladies are always agreeable, if you only know how to take them, (most married men soon become educated in this direction), so with my own experience and Mrs. Gemmell's kind assistance, the vocal and instrumental music was soon secured.

Now, Mr. Editor, least my enthusiasm carry me completely away. I must not forget to mention what you have done in assisting the project towards success. Of course you recollect me speaking of how nice it would be to have a grand magic lantern exhibit, accompanied with an instructive lecture as to the value of the bees, both from a commercial and scientific standpoint. This you also heartily agreed with, and expressed your willingness at a considerable expense (some \$25, I believe,) to yourself for the use of a suitable lantern. In order to carry out the arrangement, if so requested. This amount you will not require to expend through the kindness of the school board. You still further suggested that the Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, be invited to attend, and this, I understand, you have, like myself, already done, with the prospect of his being in attendance.

Now, brother beekeepers, before concluding I will give you a synopsis of what may be looked for, but before doing so I might mention that the lecture will treat of the manner in which the bees secret wax scales, build comb, gather and ripen honey, nurse the larva, and the manner in which pollen is packed in the baskets while on the wing, and how it is deposited in the cells for future use, the sting and its uses, etc. The

programme will be something of this fashion: Chairman's address, opening chorus, instrumental music, address by the Hon. John Dryden, violin solo, song (selected), Mr. Holtermann's pow wow, comic song, music, God Save the Queen.

Recollect I do not lay this down as the authorized programme, although I can furnish it in about this order.

Come one come all,
To the lecture hall.

F. A. GEMMELL.

Stratford, Dec 5 1891.



A. PICKETT.

President O. B. K. A., Nassagaweya, Ont.

WALKERTON, Nov. 17th, 1891.

I think it would be well to urge through THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL all bee-keepers going to the Stratford convention to get railroad certificates when purchasing a single fare ticket to Stratford. There is nothing to lose, for the return fare in no case will be higher than two-thirds, and it is altogether likely that there will be the necessary number to get the return fare at one-third single fare. A. E. SHERRINGTON.

[We do not think there is any doubt about the required members being present, and every one should purchase a single fare ticket to Stratford and demand from the agent a railroad certificate.—Ed.]

RIGHTS OF BEE-KEEPERS.

The Profits of Bee-Keeping—
Honey As a Food.

(From the Montreal Weekly Witness.)

To the editor of the Witness:

SIR,—Upon my return from the International Bee-Keepers' Convention, held at St. Joseph, Mo. I find in the Witness of Oct. 3, under the legal department, the following question and answer re bees:

J. B. Ont.—Q.—A soda water manufacturer is bothered to such an extent with a neighbor's honey bees coming to his factory day after day, that he has to stop work until they leave. As they are a nuisance, what steps if any, can be taken to prevent this? Ans.—The owner of the bees should be requested in writing to abate the nuisance, and, in the event of his failing, to comply with the request, an action might be brought for an injunction to restrain him from continuing such nuisance.

The above answer conflicts with a statement which I made in the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, as editor. The question of the rights of bee-keepers is not a new one. The poor little creature is perhaps, unable to defend itself, or the liberal use of honey imparts to bee-keepers the characteristic which a honey circular sets forth as the result of its use, "a sweet disposition." Or perhaps they imbibe wisdom with the honey and think the best policy is to bend their heads and let the storm pass by. Yet it is not always wise to allow statements to go unchallenged, so I will state in kindly spirit the case of the bee-keepers.

I do not know why a creature so valuable as the honey bee should be so liable to attack unless through lack of information upon the subject. We read of people being injured and even killed by horses, yet no one thinks of preventing the keeping and driving of horses. We read of humanity suffering the most dreaded of deaths from hydrophobia, and yet the keeping of dogs is not prohibited. I am a great lover of good dogs, yet I would not dare to say that the average dog is as useful as the average colony of bees. A small percentage of dogs are able to save life and protect property. What do the bees do? The first object in the existence of the honey bee is to assist in the fertilization of flowers. The parts of a flower are calyx, corolla, stamens and pistils. The stamens contain the male portion of the flower and are divided into filament and anther. The filament is the stalk. The anther is a little case or hollow body borne on the top of the filament. It is filled with a powdery matter called pollen. The pistils are the bodies in which the seeds are formed. They belong to the

centre of the flower. A pistil has three parts. At the bottom is the ovary, which becomes the seed vessel. This is prolonged upwards into a slender body called the style. And this bears a somewhat enlarged portion, with a naked roughish surface, called the stigma. Upon this stigma some of the pollen, or powder from the anthers, falls and sticks fast, and this somehow enables the pistils to ripen seeds that will grow.

Flowers vary very much. Some contain both stamens and pistils, but some we find having pistils only and sometimes stamens only. Sometimes a blossom bearing both stamens and pistils cannot fertilize itself, as they mature at different times and prevent self-fertilization. Or the parts are so arranged that in its visits the insect brings about cross fertilization. This is an excellent provision of nature. Just as in and in breeding in animal life is injurious, so it is injurious in plant life and cannot be followed to any great extent or progeny lacks in vigor and is otherwise defective.

Very elaborate experiments have been conducted by Darwin and other, which go to prove the importance of the honey bee to the fruit-grower and gardener. Take the apple, for instance. A core is divided into five parts. The apple is really a fusion of five fruits and to secure a perfect fruit there must be five distinct fertilizations. If none are effected, the calyx, which forms the flesh of the fruit, instead of swelling, drops off. An apple often develops imperfectly. If four of the stigmas have been pollen-dusted, the fruit rarely hangs long enough to ripen, the wind storms shaking them off. These apples may generally be known by their deformity. One part has failed to grow because there has been no diversion of nutrition towards it. If the apple is cut, the part opposite the deformed part will likely be undeveloped, shrivelled and shrunk.

It may be claimed that other insects are able to do the work of fertilization, or that bees are not natives of this country, and that, in ages past, plant life got along without the bees. When such a statement is made, it must be remembered that our great fruit orchards, with their wealth of blossom, are an artificial condition of plant life, and to balance matters we require an artificial condition in insect life. As a rule, if not always, in insect life, the mother alone survives the winter. In the bumble bee the queen only survives, and only after the bulk of fruit blossom is over do insects of this kind become numerous. With the honey bee it is different. Ten to thirty thousand worker bees survive the winter with the queen (the mother), and these workers are ready to begin the sea-

son's work in the spring. They, too, are active when many others, owing to low temperature, remain quiet. Pages could be written along this line, but the above will throw a gleam upon a picture which becomes, under proper light, to the student of nature a delightful study.

And what does the bee-keeper do for our country? The great problem during agricultural depression has been, how shall we make our farms more productive? This question has several aspects, but the side of particular interest is, how can we produce the most dollars and cents with the least capital, and take the least from the soil? An analysis of Prof. Robertson, shows how greatly the fertility of the soil is reduced in point of plant food by all farm produce. Again, the capital required is an important item, important because the interest on capital must be allowed for, and upon the amount of capital depends the amount of minor expenses, such as taxes, wear and tear of buildings, insurance. This must be deducted to get at the true profit. If you have one hundred head of dairy cows, they practically displace some other crop upon the farm, or they prevent the selling of some other crop from the farm, which to some extent is the same thing. Or, where you have wheat, you cannot grow an oat crop at the same time, and so on. But the bee-keeper increases the wealth-producing powers of the country. One hundred hives can be put in a very small compass, and aside from the room they stand on, the farm can be made to produce just as much as before, the bees availing themselves of the natural flowers in the vicinity. More than that, the bees assist the clover-seed and fruit-grower, as has already been shown, and therefore increase the wealth-producing powers of the country, apart from the honey gathered, to that extent. But some one will say, how much does the honey crop draw in the way of plant food? Here again bee-keeping makes the best showing. The honey is made up entirely of constituents supplied by the atmosphere, and draws nothing from the soil. One hundred hives, in a good locality, and under skillful management, will, one season and another, produce as much as the average hundred acres. One hundred colonies of bees, with necessary appliances, are worth, say \$80. How much is the farm and stock worth?

It may be argued that men fail in bee-keeping. So they do, but men fail in everything; and to succeed in this, one must exercise thought, have experience, or acquire it slowly by a gradual increase in the number of colonies kept, and not only have one's own experience, but try to learn from

the experience of others, which is most readily done through the press. In the past there has been too much an idea that all that is required to be done is to get the bees and take the honey. As far as the above goes, whatever is worth undertaking by an intelligent and diligent person has set upon it a premium which prevents everyone from succeeding in it, and bee-keeping in this respect, is the same as many other undertakings.

Do not let it be understood that I disparage dairying. I am a strong advocate of dairying, but I am giving some of the benefits the country derives from keeping bees. Others might be mentioned, but let us take only one more.

The bees are benefactors to everyone who eats honey. Honey is nectar gathered from flowers. This nectar is a pure saccharine substance with certain essential oils in it. The bees in the slow process of gathering the nectar, as they pass from flower to flower, add to it secretions from the head glands, making it undergo the first stages toward digestion. The nectar is spread in cells in the comb and a current of warm air is passed over them. This current is charged with formic acid by the bees, which enables the honey to ripen with out fermentation.

The honey when ripe gives us a most wholesome food, unless sweets of all kinds are injurious. For children it is a delicious food. For the adult it is equally beneficial. Our house is never without honey, and it is a staple article upon our table. During the prevalence of la grippe, our house suffered not from its ravages, and I have heard the same from many who constantly use honey. Dr. A. E. Mason, of Auburndale, Ohio, says: "There are five in our family. We always have honey on our table; two of us eat honey at every meal, while the other three rarely touch it. The three abstainers have had the grippe; the other two have not. This will be enough to point out that the honey bee is a very useful creature.

Now as to law. Bee-keepers have organized a "Bee-keepers' Union," and one of the duties of this union is to prevent unlawful infringements on the rights of bee-keepers. There are now and again attempts to persecute bee-keepers. Generally they arise out of spite or personal feelings. Bees are sometimes an inconvenience. When they can gather no natural stores, they are likely to try and get at any sweets exposed not only in the immediate neighborhood, but within a radius of several miles, and in the fall of the year those preserving or cooking sweets should be careful not to expose such. As far as cider mills and the like are concerned bee-keepers are looking

forward to the time when there will be a law to prevent the exposure in the fall of the year of substances injurious to the bees. Stores so gathered are put in the brood chamber and injure the bees in wintering.

But to get back to the Bee-keepers' Union. They, I believe, have never yet lost a case. Judgment may have gone against the bee-keeper in the lower court, but when carried to a higher court the decision has always been in favor of the bee-keeper. No one can be prohibited from keeping bees in a town, village or city.

I might mention a case in the city of Arkadelphia. I think in Arkansas. The city passed an ordinance, of which the preamble states that: "Whereas, a petition from any citizens of Arkadelphia having been previously presented to this council, setting forth that the raising of bees or keeping them in the city of Arkadelphia was injurious and destructive to property, such as early fruit, and dangerous to citizens when riding in vehicles or on horseback upon the streets and a pest in many of the houses in said city, having stung many persons, and especially children, while walking the streets and sidewalks."

The ordinance as adopted is substantially as follows:—

Be it ordained by the City Council of the city of Arkadelphia: That it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to own, keep or raise bees in the city of Arkadelphia the same having been declared a nuisance."

That any person or persons keeping or owning bees in the city of Arkadelphia are hereby notified to remove the same from the corporate limits of the city of Arkadelphia within thirty days from date hereof.

Section 2 provides a penalty of not less than five dollars or more than twenty-five dollars for a violation of the ordinance.

Mr. Clark was ordered to remove his bees by June 6, 1887. He did not remove them and on Jan. 2, 1888, he was arrested and fined day after day for ten successive days for maintaining a nuisance by keeping his bees in the suburbs of that city. Not paying the fines Mr. Clark was committed to the city jail, by order of the mayor. Mr. Clark appealed to the Bee-keepers' Union, and the manager, Mr. Thomas G. Newman, employed the services of Major J. L. Witherspoon, ex-attorney-general of Arkansas. Upon some consideration the case was carried to the Circuit Court. Amongst the argument advanced in Mr. Clark's favor was that a man's right to hold property is paramount to all legislative power; and any attempt to take away such right is unconstitutional.

Judge Hearn, after stating that the case would go to the Supreme Court, no matter in which way it would be decided, in his court, said that he wanted to be found on the right side when the case would be decided in the Supreme Court, dismissed the case and declared the ordinance of the city illegal and void.

The city's appeal to the Supreme Court was heard on June 22, 1889. The case was argued at much length. The city attorney claimed it was 'a matter of common knowledge that bees are liable to sting children, etc.' In reply it was argued, 'It is not a matter of common knowledge, because it is not true, unless children molest them. But because a domestic insect may sting or hurt under some circumstances no more makes it a nuisance per se and liable to prohibition than the fact that a horse may kick, may run away and kill a child, etc.'

Because bees may sting or annoy do we prohibit them? It would follow that because cows may gore, dogs annoy by barking or biting or running mad we will also prohibit them or because vehicle may annoy by raising dust or making a noise, or animals may run away in harness, therefore we prohibit them. No such autocratic or despotic power is right and the legislature, could not delegate such power under the bill of rights. The Bee-keepers' Union was again sustained, and I think no one will attempt to argue that in Canada we have not all the rights they have in the United States. Of course the *Witness* would be the last to favor litigation, yet it is only just to bee-keepers and to others to throw as much light as possible upon the question. The greatest good to the greatest number is what every patriotic Canadian will desire.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

[The above was written in the interests of bee-keepers' in reply to "legal advice" in the *Witness*, least some might have the *Legal Opinion* shown to them and not the article following we reproduce it.—*Ed.*]

I might now say that THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL is a credit to the publishers and Canada. I think bee-keepers appreciate your endeavors. EDMUND T. BERRY.
Brome Corners, Que., Dec. 10th, 1891.

I think THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL is greatly improved under your management.
THOS. WM. COWAN.

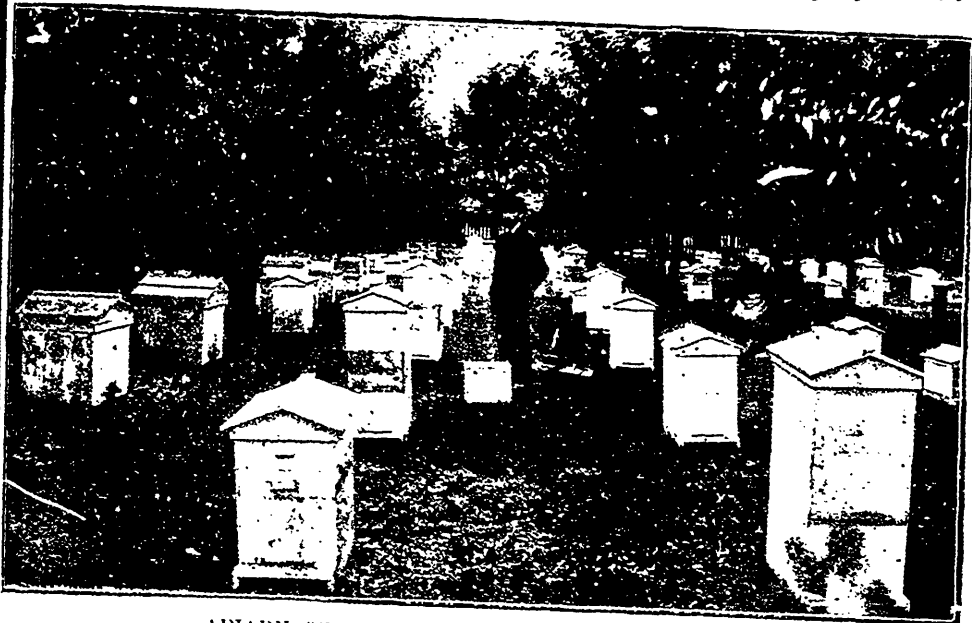
31 Belsize Park Gardens,
Hampstead N. W., Eng.

[Mr. Cowan is editor of the British Bee Journal and chairman or president of the British Bee-keepers Association.]

The Apiary of A. E. Sherrington, Walkerton.

I will try and comply with your request to give the readers of the C.B.J. the situation and my system of management of the above apiary. As the apiary is situated in the orchard, the hives have to be placed to suit the location, but still being very convenient. You will observe that the first row of hives is facing east, having a border of evergreens and shrubs for a background, which is a great protection from the west winds. The rest of the colonies face south,

breeding more for working qualities than color, but still trying to combine the two as far as possible, weeding out all queens that are not up to the mark as honey producers, re-queening the greater part of the apiary each season with young queens of different strains, thereby giving me direct crosses, as I consider colonies containing young queens build up faster in the spring than those containing old ones. The apiary is worked chiefly for extracted honey, but still producing a few hundred pounds of comb honey. The colony with the two cases finished just sixty-four one-pound sections in a week during the basswood flow. Now as to the management of an apiary. You are



APIARY OF A. E. SHERRINGTON, WALKERTON.

standing in rows. Only part of the apiary is shown here, still you will be able to see the position of the yard.

Upon entering it from the shop, which does not show here. Standing a little to the southwest you have every colony before you. If anything is wrong it can be taken in at a glance. This photograph was taken in the middle of the Basswood flow, while some of the colonies have two supers, and others are not ready for the second, and these colonies that have no supers on are nuclei as part of the apiary is used for queen rearing. Just a few words now as to the kind of bees. I prefer the Italians over all others, therefore keep nothing else,

aware, Mr. Editor, no one can lay down a certain rule. You must be governed by the condition of your colonies, as well as the section. I will now, therefore, try and give you an outline of my management.

As to the size of hives used, they are $15\frac{3}{4} \times 21$, in outside measure, containing twelve frames measuring $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$, inside measure having top bar $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch deep and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide. I find that by using that size of top bar it does away with all burr combs. All of the hives are numbered, and a record of all queens are kept as to their age and breedings. I might state here that I winter outside, packed on summer stands. The first day the bees fly in the

spring, each colony is examined as to stores, and any that are short are given sealed combs enough to carry them over the balance of the cold weather. When warm weather has set in, and new pollen is coming in, all colonies are examined to see if they have a good prolific queen, leaving them packed until the last of May or the first of June. As soon as the bees are strong enough put on the supers to prevent them from getting the swarming power, and as they fill up supers I add, as I believe in tiering up, leaving the honey on the hive to ripen. When a swarm issues they are hived on full sheets of foundation on the old stand, placing a super on the swarm, leaving the old colony standing alongside of the swarm for five or seven days; then placing on a new stand, or if no increase is wanted, I shake off the bees in front of the swarm, using the comb for other swarms or for making nuclei. I might say here that I clip all my queens' wings, which lessens the labor very much in living, at the same time making it easy to recognize a young queen if at any time the old queen should be superceded. In concluding I will draw your attention to the apiary. The lady sitting under the tree is my better half, Mrs. Sherrington, the little girl standing by her side is our only child, Ethel, nine years old, and the fellow standing beside the comb bucket and queen stand is

Your humble servant.

A. E. SHERRINGTON.

Quality In Extracted Honey. How Secured.

—C. P. Dadant.

The first and main requisite in good extracted honey is to have it well ripened by the bees. It is often said that honey may be extracted as soon as harvested by the workers and that it may be ripened by artificial process. We have little faith in this method, nor is it practicable on a large scale, for according to the best authorities it must be kept in open vessels and a warm place for several weeks. We make a specialty of extracting honey and have harvested as much as 85 barrels from 400 colonies in the space of a month. Had we taken this off before it had ripened, it would have become watery and therefore more bulky and would have required a special building and special tanks to ripen it.

Our method is to leave all the honey on the hive until the crop is over, and by adding more surplus cases as fast as the first

ones are filled. About a week after the crop is ended, we may reasonably expect the honey to be entirely ripened. It is not at all necessary that it be sealed, to be ripe, for the bees must evidently evaporate it before sealing it. We are of the opinion that the heat of the bees, together with the ventilation they give to their hive are sufficient to ripen the honey and in our experience it is only in exceptional cases that there is any unripe honey in the hive a week after the end of the crop. Ripe honey once secured, the only requisite is to put it in the right sort of vessels to retain all its quality.

First, the extractor must be clean. If it has not been well washed when the previous crop was extracted, there will be some blackish spot in it, and it is necessary to cleanse it well with boiling water and a good scrub brush. A capping can is indispensable, for with it all the honey remaining in the cappings may be drained out and this will be as clean and as good as that thrown out with the extractor.

Barrels are the cheapest of all honey packages. We use alcohol barrels (see on hand) exclusively. Our reasons for using them are that they are not charred like whiskey or wine barrels and that they are glued or gummed inside to prevent the evaporation of the alcohol, and this glue or gum prevents the honey from gathering moisture through the wood of the barrels or from becoming tainted by the taste of the wood. The alcohol leaves no taint or taste if the barrel has been emptied and the bung left out for a few days. The honey when barreled should be run through a fine sieve to free it from small pieces of comb or from moats.

From the barrels the honey may be drawn into any sort of vessels or tin or glass for retailing. A slight amount of skum will come with the last few pounds. This may be put into a jar and the foam and other remaining imperceptible impurities can be skimmed off and fed to the needy colonies during the spring, for there is no need of wasting anything.

A bee-keeper who has but a limited number of colonies of bees may use an extractor can with advantage, instead of a barrel to put his crop of honey in, but if the honey is allowed to granulate before putting it up into retailing vessels, a barrel will be found more convenient and the head of it may be taken out to remove the honey. Granulated honey sometimes gets so hard that it takes a garden trowel or a spade to dig it out and we have often damaged the extractor can in trying to empty it of its granulated honey.

Tin vessels are very good for retailing honey and if not made of lead, but of real

tin, they will keep their brightness for years under the honey. Glass is still better than tin, but it is much more expensive. Our way is not to put honey up otherwise than in barrels until it is to be retailed. We have preserved it for as many as 7 years in this manner. When it is wanted in the liquid form, great care should be exercised not to overheat it in melting. It should be heated always over water, (au bain-marie) and even then the water should not be so hot as to cause the essential oils of the honey to evaporate, for it would lose all its best flavor. The slower it melts, the better it is likely to remain.

Hamilton, Ills., U. S.

Correspondence.

FOREIGN MARKETS.

African Chambers,
19 Old Hall Street,
Liverpool, Nov. 22nd, 1894.

Messrs. E. I. Gould & Co., Brantford, Ont. :

Dear Sirs,—We should be glad to know if you can offer dark Canadian honey and to have samples of same with your lowest C.O.F. price to Liverpool for a quantity, say up to 10 tons, either in cases or barrels. Also please send us samples of any pure beeswax that you can offer with C.O.F. price to Liverpool—for payment you could draw upon us through banker's cash against bills lading and policy of insurance. We can name as banker's reference the Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company, Ltd., Liverpool and London. We are the largest dealers in dark honey and beeswax in Liverpool, and if you can supply us well might take all that you could offer, and as the selling season is just now on, we should be glad to have your reply by return mail with samples of the honey and wax as desired.

Yours truly,

C. A. SLATER & Co.

Gould, Shapley & Mair Co., Brantford, Ont. :

Gentlemen,—Through the Toronto Industrial Exhibition we received your name as extensive producers of honey. I shall thank you to send me offers with samples of water white honey with best terms for 5 tons for cash payment. First-class reference at your service.

Yours obediently,

HENRI LYON.

41 Avenue de l'Opera,
Paris, France, Nov. 20th, 1894.

FIRST STEPS IN.... ...BEE-KEEPING.

KEEPING EVERLASTINGLY AT IT
BRINGS SUCCESS.

QUESTIONS SENT IN BEARING UPON FIRST STEPS
IN BEE-KEEPING WILL BE ANSWERED IN THIS
DEPARTMENT BY THE EDITOR.

I am pleased to see the questions coming in. For some months there have been more questions than could well be handled in this department, but all have received prompt replies by mail. Send along your questions and every effort will be made to give you full information at once. As this is the season when bees should be quietly in their winter quarters, the beginner should be arming himself for the struggles of another season. A portion of the long winter evenings can be well spent in studying what you require to know, put down where you think you have failed or what you did and the result. Then if you desire it write to the editor of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL and he will give you what help he can either through a personal letter or through the Journal.

APPLE VALLEY, Ont., Aug. 25th, 1894.

Will you please give directions by return mail as to the best way of wintering bees, whether in outside clamps or cellar. I am a beginner and will put 12 colonies in winter quarters. My cellar is good but the bottom is sometimes damp, hence my doubts. By some outside wintering is recommended, by others not so, and your advice will be valuable. I use the Jones hive, 8 frames. If cellar is used, what distance should hive be placed from bottom of same? Should chaff cushions be used and if so of what material, how are they made and how placed on hive? Is super left on and cushion pressed down inside to fit closely over brood or simply placed on top of frames without cover?

For clamp wintering give directions in detail and if you choose I will remit amt for advice.—Please send August number of Bee Journal.

There is of course no charge for advice.

The above would take pages to answer in full. The conditions under which you propose wintering should be mentioned. If you have a climate and cellar which will give you a fairly equable temperature through winter ranging when the bees are in it about 43° I should say winter in the

cellar, or if you are situated close to a lake with a strong cold wind frequently blowing and no chance for the bees to have a fly all winter as C. W. Post has been situated, I should say winter in the cellar. I have for many years felt confident that water running through a cellar would not injure it as a winter repository for bees, and now some of our best authorities go further and say a damp cellar is better or as good as a dry. My cellar is pretty dry. I prefer under my conditions cellar wintering, but have this winter twenty colonies outside for experimental purposes. I do not know but I sometimes think that if there are only a few colonies say under ten in a cellar there is likely to be a greater variation in temperature and they better be outside. Of course this can be remedied by making the compartment the bees are in of a size in proportion to the number of colonies to be wintered.

I take an empty Langstroth hive or body, about ten inches deep, place this upon the cellar floor, put a two-inch piece of scantling upon the back, and on this place the first hive, which brings the back about 12 inches, and the front 10 inches, from the cellar floor. Now as to cushions, I confess I do not know. See what is said in an editorial about this. If used, I would have them made large enough to fit firmly and squarely all over the hive, and particularly the outsides. The arrangement I like best for a chaff cushion is expensive. The cover projects all around, is in the form of a sloping roof, and has at a certain distance inside a lining. The cushion projects all around over the edge of the hive, and the chaff is forced a little prominently to the outer sides. When the heavy lid is placed on this the pressure is on the outer edges of the cushion, and it fits down better on the hive. Of course, they are of more use in the spring, and these lids are very heavy and expensive. In wintering outside I generally put a few sheets of paper over the sealed quilts and the packing over that.

For clamp wintering I move the colonies together gradually in early Fall and get them in the same relative position that they will occupy during the winter. I have generally put nine or ten colonies in a clamp. The clamp has a separate bottom, sides, ends, and the cover in two places all hook together. It is large enough to allow about two inches of packing at the bottom, 4 to 6 inches all around the sides and ends, and six or more on top. About the middle of October the hives some cool morning or evening are set back, the bottom of the clamp elevated from the ground, placed where the hives stood, the packing put upon

the bottom of the clamp, and the hive placed upon supports. The right height to keep the bottom of the hive is two inches from the bottom of the clamp. The sides and ends are now hooked in place, a bridge put over the entrance to allow the bees to pass in and out, and the balance of the clamp packed for winter, with the exception of the top covering, which is left off almost entirely until cold weather. The entrance blocks are adjustable, and I am not at all sure as to what is the best width. I generally leave it about three inches, but some have much less of an entrance. I like a board directly in front of an entrance to break sunlight and wind. But my experience for some years has been almost entirely cellar wintering, and perhaps some of our contributors will give their plans.

Spraying Plums for Rot.

The horticulturist of the Kentucky Experiment Station says, in a recent bulletin: On the Kentucky Experiment Station grounds several plum trees have always been badly affected with brown rot, which is a fungus parasite. Last spring it was decided to treat one of these with Bordeaux mixture, leaving another standing beside it as a check. The former was sprayed on June 9th with Bordeaux mixture, about two and a half gallons being applied to the leaves and young fruit with a knapsack sprayer. On July 5th the tree was sprayed again, about the same quantity of mixture being applied.

The season was unfavorable for fruit of all sorts, and neither the sprayed nor the check tree bore as full crops of fruit as usual. Some rotting fruit was observed at the time of picking on both trees and a good many plums rotted and fell from both during the summer.

On August 22nd the plums were picked and from the sprayed tree were removed 477 plums, weighing 11½ pounds; the unsprayed check tree yielded 25½ plums, weighing six pounds. The difference in favor of spraying is thus about 5½ pounds in weight of fruit. Or we may say the spraying increased the yield about 18 per cent. The mixture was made of 22 gallons of water, 6½ pounds bluestone, 3½ pounds fresh lime. The bluestone is dissolved in three or four gallons of hot water. Slack the lime and make of it a paste as thick as cream. Stir the latter into the bluestone solution and finally turn the whole into the remaining water.—Michigan Farmer.

Those Expecting to be at the Annual Meeting of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association.

A GRAND RALLY.

The Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture; Prof. C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; Prof. James Fletcher, Ottawa; John Fixter, Dominion Experimental Farm, Ottawa; E. R. Root, Medina, Ohio; W. Z. Hutchinson, Flint Mich; A. Pickett, Nassagaweya; R. F. Holtzmann, Brantford; Wm. Couse, Streetsville; Martin Emigh, Holbrook; S. T. Pettit, Belmont; F. A. Gemmell, Stratford; W. J. Brown, Chard; J. K. Darling, Almonte; M. B. Holmes, Athens; Allen Pringle, Selby; D. Chalmers, Poole; F. A. Rose, Balmoral; J. B. Hall, Woodstock; R. McKnight, Owen Sound; E. A. Jones, Kertch; R. H. Smith, Bracebridge; A. E. Hoshal, Beansville; John Calvert, Walsh; D. W. Heise, Bethesda, W. S. Walton, Scarborough, and party; W. A. Chrysler, Chatham; A. Fyfe, Harriston; W. W. Pegg, Windham Centre; Judson Dawitt, Forestville; W. W. Simmons, Ronson; Robt. B. Emrick; Tyrell; Jas. Shaver, Cainville; J. R. Howell, Brantford; C. Edmonson, Brantford; T. Birkett, Brantford; J. R. Morris, Hatchley; L. Patterson, Lynden; W. Muir, Brantford; A. Petrie, Brantford; F. J. Miller, London; W. S. Walton, Scarborough Junction; John Newton, Thamesford; Dr. Duncan, Embro; Wm. Goodger, Woodstock; R. H. Myers, Stratford; W. J. Craig, Brantford.

The Oxford Bee-keepers' Association adjourned to meet in a body at the Stratford convention. The York expect to send a deputation of eight. The Walkerton Association, with A. E. Sherrington for one of its leaders, expects to turn out well. No one need for a moment doubt that they will get one-third rate home if they buy a full fare ticket and get a railroad certificate when going to Stratford.

I am very well pleased with THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL and would not like to do without it. Here is another dollar for 1895. I think the JOURNAL gives great information in First Steps in Bee-Keeping. I am only a short time at the business, but I find your motto, "Keeping Everlastingly at it Brings Success," just suits me.

GEO. JOHNSTON,
Bracebridge.

Nobly Done.

Genuine self-forgetfulness in a generous action is always admirable. An anecdote of such a deed, unique in its way, has recently been told. A gentleman whose veracity cannot be impeached relates the incident. Nearly all Australian snakes are venomous. Some authorities even go so far as to declare there are no non-venomous snakes in the great island.

A young lady of high social position whose home is at Brisbane was walking in the garden one day, when she saw a laborer employed on her father's grounds just ahead of her. When within a few feet of the man she was horrified to see a small but exceedingly venomous snake dart its ugly length from a bush which the fellow was passing, and fix its fangs in his bare arm.

The young lady uttered a cry of alarm, ran forward and hit the reptile a stunning blow with her parasol handle, and then, without a moment's delay, produced her penknife, opened it, and cut a cross on the arm through the wound made by the snake's fangs. She next applied her lips to the wound, and sucked out the poison.

The man was but a laborer and his arm was not overclean, but the noble young woman did not stop to think of that. She knew what to do, and without squeamishness she did it, and saved the man's life.

"The heroine of this incident is now my wife," concluded the narrator, "and it was the story of her bravery which first attracted my attention to her."—Youth's Companion.

THE MANSE, Sutton West, Dec. 10th.

Enclosed please find renewal for JOURNAL. Each number arrives seems to be better than the last. My bees did well this season. The wet spell seemed to suit them as they were comfortably packed, had lots of stores and just went on raising brood as if they were aware there would be work to do.

Began with 7 colonies, ended with 15 and took 500 pounds extracted. Sold the white for 10 cents, the buckwheat for 5 cents. Can you not give us receipts for making various things from honey? I have been thinking we will need to use some of our surplus that way, but from the Toronto Mail perhaps not, if a good market is opened in Europe, as your letter seems to indicate. With best wishes,

Yours very truly,

(REV.) JAMES FRAZER.

[Perhaps some of our readers will favor Mr. Frazer with receipts along the above line.—Ed.]

ROCKINGHAM, Ont., Dec. 8th, 1894.

I enclose \$1.00 to renew my subscription to CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL for the ensuing year. I am glad to say, it is a very great improvement, in every way, over the old C. B. J., which used to be issued a month behind time; and when issued was a paltry affair. I am sorry I cannot, at present send any new subscription along, as the few who keep bees in this neighborhood are old brimstone box hivers, but I will try to get some to subscribe.

Yours very truly,
DR. JOS. KINDER.

I was so much interested in the description of your visit to Mr. Post that when I came to the end of it, I fully expected to see "To be continued."
St Thomas, Ont. R. H. SMITH.

For 50 years The Weekly Globe of Toronto has had an enviable reputation as the one great Liberal weekly of the Dominion. It has always been a high-class journal, and a welcome visitor in thousands of homes. It was never better as a newspaper than it is to-day. The Globe's enterprise is proverbial. Its correspondents have traversed and written up almost every section of the country. All great events have been fully reported. The speeches of leading politicians, whether on the floor of Parliament or on the stump, have been presented as they were uttered, and all are fairly treated, whether Liberal, Conservative or Patron. The Globe is the only weekly paper in Canada that gives such full and fair report of Parliamentary proceedings, great church meetings, and other similar occurrences of Provincial and national interest. Among leading features of recent numbers may be mentioned speeches by Mr. Laurier, Sir John Thompson, Sir Richard Cartwright, Mr. Marter, Mr. Haycock, members of the Ontario Cabinet, and others; letters from members of The Globe's editorial staff who travelled through the Province of Quebec and over the route of the Trent Valley Canal, interviews and letters on that most important question, the reform of the law system, long reports from the scene of the Jessie Keith murder, the McWherrel trial, and other sensational events. The aim of The Globe is to be trustworthy. The Globe has the best cable and telegraphic service obtainable; its foreign, American and Canadian dispatches are unexcelled, and every week the whole world is brought under review. The agricultural department is right up to the times; the crop and market reports are full and reliable. Reasonable space is given up each week to lighter reading, and good stories is one of The Globe's attractions. Another popular feature are the weekly contributions from the Khan's political pen. As a family newspaper The Weekly Globe is unrivalled.

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A. FYFE.
Harriston, Ont., Dec. 4th, 1891.

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