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OUR OWN APIARY.

TRYING TO RAISE QUEENS FROM DRONE EGGS.

Our "Law" bee-farm this week, as we were going over the hives, making artificial swarms and building up nuclei, we found in one hive where the bees had attempted to raise queens from drone eggs, and on one comb, two cells containing drones; one cell was nearly two inches in length, and contained a living drone almost ready to gnaw out. There was no cocoon spun at the point of the cell by the drone, as there usually is when they are hatched in the ordinary way. There was also about one-quarter of an inch deep of royal jelly, partially dried, in the bottom of the cell, showing that it had been very liberally fed. The drone appeared perfect in every way, excepting the wings, which were only small stubs. It also appeared to have a partial cocoon around its body, instead of on the point of the cell. It seemed to be too far from the point of the cell to reach it, which we suppose accounted, in a measure, for the partial web around its body. The other cell on the same comb contained two drones, one fully developed in every way; it had its head in the bottom of the cell. The other was fully developed, excepting the wings, which were deficient. Its head was at the top of the cell. Thus, the two drones lay with the points of their abdomens together, so if one had gnawed out the other might have backed out of the cell.

BEES CONFINING THE QUEEN.

A swarm issued at our home apiary. The foreman removed all the queen cells except three, and no other queen cells remained in the hive, nor were there any more started. About fifteen

days afterwards another swarm issued. On examining the hive we found that the bees had actually kept those queens confined six or seven days after they should have gnawed out. One queen had been allowed to hatch, she leading out the second swarm, while the other two queens were in the cells, and, strange to say, the bees had seemingly continued to put wax on the outside of the cells until they were an enormous size. We cut open the other two cells and liberated the other two queens. They were fine, and could fly as well as queens hatched several days. The wax was more than six times as thick as is usual on ordinary queen cells. We do not know how to account for this strange freak of the bees; in fact it is hard to account for some of the things bees do.

BASSWOOD.

The basswood trees planted in and around our village commenced to bloom about the 10th or 12th of July, while the basswood in the forests has not commenced to bloom yet, unless it is an occasional tree standing at the edge of the wood or in a favored locality. Even then very few blossoms can be found, this 17th day of July. This shows that the basswood planted in favored localities will yield honey at least a week before those growing in the forests, and this should be quite an item for bee-keepers, who can extend their basswood harvest even a week.

NUCLEI SWARMING OUT.

One of our men was making nucleus the other day, and he found a queen just gnawing out of the cell. He took the comb with the adhering bees and placed it in a new hive, then shook down a lot of bees, sufficient to complete the nuclei. In about one hour a small swarm was seen issuing from the hive, and on examination it was found that the queen had hatched, and they had swarmed out leaving nothing but the

combs, the queen being just able to fly. This is the first instance of the kind that has occurred with him, and he has made hundreds, and perhaps thousands of nuclei in the last ten years.

HIVING SWARMS WHERE TWO COME OUT TOGETHER.

As we walked into one of our bee yards the other day a swarm was hanging on a tree several rods from the apiary. This swarm had issued very early in the morning, probably because the weather of the two previous days had been unfavorable for swarming. As we neared the centre of the yard, which contained about 200 colonies, we saw the foreman run and pick up a wire tent hurriedly and set it over a hive, about which he noticed indications of swarming. The tent was scarcely over the hive before the swarm commenced to issue. After the swarm had about half issued and the entire wire tent, which is about three feet wide, five feet long and five feet high, was covered with bees inside; the queen came from the hive, alighted on the front of the wire cloth and crawled up. Soon they all clustered on the top of the wire tent. Then in a minute more he raised the tent, lifted out the parent colony, and set another hive with combs in its place for the new swarm to occupy. Then by tapping the wire a little with the fingers on the outside, the bees came down and commenced to run into the hive. In a very few minutes they were all in the hive with their queen. The wire tent was tipped back, the hive carried to its permanent stand, and the parent colony set back on the old stand again. By this means he hived the new swarm on the old stand by merely setting the parent colony outside the tent to catch any stray bees that might return from the fields, and prevent the swarms from uniting with the one hanging on the tree. A tent like this in a yard where there are a good many

strong colonies, seems now to be indispensable for if two swarms issue at the same time, one may be caged by the wire tent and hived on its own stand, before the other has time to cluster on a tree.

DIVIDING UP SWARMS.

On the morning of the 17th as the foreman went into our home yard with some of the students he found a swarm issuing, he immediately caught the queen and hived them. The work was scarcely over, when two more commenced to issue. While getting the wire tent to place over this one, two more rushed forth and it was evident that they all intended to alight in one cluster. Before he got the tent over one another started to issue. This one (the 6th) he secured, from going in with the others. He might have got the tent over one of the other hives, but as they started to issue he rushed from one entrance to another catching the queens. He succeeded in capturing three, slipping them in cages and dropping the cages into his pocket. Soon the four swarms clustered together on a tree; then he took a step ladder, a dipper, and a light box with wooden sides, and wire bottom, about 16 by 20 inches. Before going up on the ladder he placed hives at intervals, in front of the tree; the queens he placed, one at the entrance of each hive. He then commenced dipping off the bees, holding the screen under to catch any that might chance to fall, handing each dipper full down to the students, who poured them in front of the hives, dividing them as equally as possible. In a few minutes they were all separated and running into their hives, while they were passing in the queens were liberated and allowed to pass in with the bees. Soon all the swarms were hived separately and set on their new stands, as well as if they had alighted in different clusters and, been hived the same as single swarms. It seems to please the students to get instances like these for practice.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SPIDERS AND BEES.

SPIDERS ARE ONE OF THE BEE-KEEPER'S BEST FRIENDS TO PRESERVE COMBS FROM THE RAVAGES OF THE BEE-MOTH.

REV. L. L. LANGSTROTH.

DEVER since the introduction of movable frames has there been, in our country, a greater mortality among bees, than during the last Winter and Spring. Before the use of these frames, to most bee-keepers such losses were irreparable. How often by natural swarming did the old-fashioned bee-keeper, when a few good seasons came in succession, make such a success in the business, as convinced him that a given sum of money invested in bees, paid better than anything else? But sooner or later comes the bad year—when most, and perhaps all of his colonies are lost—his golden dreams vanish, and in most cases he abandons the pursuit in disgust, having nothing to show for his investment but some empty hives, extra nice indeed for kindling wood, and some combs of value only for their wax. Was he one of the kind who have little use in their vocabulary for the word failure? Being able to make but little if any use of his old combs, he painfully waited upon the seasons, and unless he had in him the making of another Quinby or Grimm, he could only hope to build up his apiary again, if favored by a succession of favorable seasons.

We have had some very calamitous seasons since movable frames began to be extensively used, but by those who know their business, how quickly are such losses repaired. Although not very often referred to, this power of speedy recuperation is one of the greatest benefits which come from the control of the combs. Nearly every empty comb can be utilized for the bees, especially since the era of sending queens by mail and purchasing bees by the pound; and even if he has lost all his colonies, no one need call himself a bankrupt bee-keeper, but in a single favorable season may hear again the cheerful hum of industry in the hives no longer desolate and silent. The change so speedily effected seems almost like a resurrection of the dead!

But it takes time, even with the best management, to secure such results, and just here comes a new element which *must* be taken into account. Nothing is so acceptable to the bee-moth as combs with no bees to protect them; the older the combs, and the better in all respects for the bees, the better too for the moth, and the great question is, how with the least

trouble can these empty combs be saved? Hang them up in some light and dry place, carefully separated so that they nowhere touch each other, and sulphur them from time to time. Most of you know by heart this old, old story, and many of you only to neglect what requires so much care and never waits upon any procrastinator. You need not be told that eternal vigilance is the price which *must* be paid if we would save empty combs for the bees.

Columella said nearly two thousand years ago: "This business [bee-keeping] demands *maximam fidelitatem* [the greatest fidelity], which since it is the rarest of qualities," etc. It is just as hard to find it now as then, but we never needed it more, and I proceed to tell those who are conscious that they are weak in this matter, now "without money and price" they may secure it. The facts which I shall now give are recorded in my private journal, and have been often told to bee-keepers, some of whom will, no doubt, remember them as given by me many years ago. Within a year or two my methods have been given in part to bee-keepers by some German apiarist—and how much do we owe to our German friends, among whom Dzierzon stands first,

I extract now word for word from my Journal, Vol. I, under date of July 8, 1864:

"Spiders I count as friends. Last season I put away small frames of comb under a box, and the spiders kept them free from moths; this year I had a number of hives with combs, but no bees, and they have guarded them *well!* where a spider has her web, there it will be kept empty combs."

I will now explain more fully how I came to find the spider's value to the bee-keeper. A nucleus with a choice imported Italian queen, was placed on an empty box-hive laid on its side upon the ground, with its cavity facing the north, to protect its contents from the sun. In this cavity I put combs to be given from time to time to the nucleus, when frames of brood for queen-rearing were taken from it. I expected that some at least of these combs would be visited by the bee-moth, but examining each comb as I took it from the old box, I found no signs that they hurt them. This surprised me much, until I saw when I came to the further end of the box, a spider's web with its occupant and many proofs of the kind of work that had been done (all unknown to me) in the shape of skeletons of bee-moth and other insects found in that web.

It was not until next year that I reaped any great benefit from seeing the handiwork of

this spider. Dec. 30, 1863, the weather at Oxford, Ohio, was quite mild for a winter day, the mercury ranging at about 42° , the day being misty and threatening rain. At 5:30 p. m. my thermometer was 42° . The wind began to rise and at 6:30 p. m., the record was 32° ; 7:30 p. m., 22° ; 10:30 p. m., 8° . Jan. 1, 1864, 7 a. m., 16° below zero, with a gale of wind. What soldier who camped out that day will ever forget it? In our apiary were many weak colonies wintered only because we could then sell every queen we could spare in the Spring for from \$10 to \$20. Nearly every one of these weak colonies was dead when I examined them after nearly two weeks of unusually cold weather. The hives with their empty combs were piled up against the north side of the barn, and that upon only enough to exclude mice. It was quite late in the spring before my health allowed me to give them any attention, and my son was absent in the army. But I was able to use every comb in my various operations. The spiders had taken possession of them, and the bee-moth had no chance. Had I closed the hives so tightly that the moth could not have got in them, I should in all probability have lost most of the empty combs. The odor of such hives attracts the moth, and if she cannot enter them, she will lay her eggs in the most convenient cracks and crevices for her progeny to get access to their proper food. It is much easier for a spider to entrap the moth, than it is for her to catch her larvæ when once they have burrowed into the combs? I prefer, therefore, to give the moth the freest possible admission, consistent with excluding mice, to all hives with empty combs.

Solomon says: "The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in king's palaces." And she is very fond of making her hunting grounds in the combs of our queen's palaces when no longer under the protection of the bees! But we need trust nothing, even to her alacrity to volunteer in our service. In our barns and woodsheds can always be found in autumn and early spring a supply of those white bags in which the provident mother so nicely tucks up, as in the softest silken cradles, her eggs to be developed in due time by the increasing warmth of the season. Put a single one of these so-called "spider-bags" into each hive with empty combs, and be no more anxious about them—you have got "without money and without price" that vigilant fidelity so indispensable in this matter. The spider is now your very good friend. She mounts guard over your combs, and will protect them from the moth until the last one has found its proper place with your bees.

I regret that this information was not given long ago to the bee-keeping world. It was intended to appear years ago in the revision which I hoped to make of my work on the "Hive and Honey-Bee." I specially regret that I could not give it last spring, when it would have been of so much greater service. But it is only within a very short time that I have sufficiently recovered from my old head trouble to take any interest in bees, or to write on anything connected with them. With gratitude to our Heavenly Father, "who forgiveth all our iniquities, and healeth all our diseases," and with hearty good will to all bee-keepers at home and abroad, I sign myself their friend.

L. L. LANGSTROTH.

Oxford, Ohio, July 1, 1885.

N. B. — July 7th, 1885. — I have just taken from a loft over my woodshed some old combs of the kind that the moth loves, and that have lain there in an open nucleus box since 1874! They have not been molested, and the spider webs adhering to them tell in short the whole of this long story.

L. L. L.

Any one who has had the pleasure of meeting Rev. L. L. Langstroth, will be better able to see in the above some of his characteristics. That he has been a close observer of nature all his life is shown by his excellent book and his other writings. Many of the supposed new inventions of the present day can be found described in his valuable work, at least the principles upon which they are founded are fully anticipated.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

DRY FÆCES IN SUMMER.

ON three occasions within the last few weeks, I have found dry bee fæces on the leaves in the garden, adjacent to the hives, and on the garden fence. In some cases the voidings had been deposited in a semi-fluid shape and had spread, but I found numerous specimens of the long stringy bent kind, adhering to the leaves so slightly that the least shake was often sufficient to detach them. On two of these occasions I could only find the deposits in the line of flight between the hives and some broken combs of honey placed on the far side of a high board fence, to be cleaned up by the bees, and in the third case deposits were found on a fence just beyond which is a stream where the bees go to gather water. This is about twelve rods from the apiary. The con-

sistency of the deposits was such that some of them would stand straight out, horizontally, one end only being attached to the edge of the leaf. They are hardly so dark in color as those gathered from the bottom boards and those voided by the bees on their first flight in spring, but in other respects they are similar, being like those just mentioned, full of pollen. In some cases the voiding took place while the bees were on the wing but in many cases it occurred after the bees had alighted and had commenced to walk or fly off. In each case there had been cool weather with high winds for a couple of days previous to finding the deposits. Last Fall we placed our surplus combs in empty hives in the bee garden, to be out of the way till Spring. Early in November we had a cold spell, during which the temperature dropped to 10°. This was followed by a week of fine weather during which dandelions bloomed, and the bees carried in pollen. The bees were attracted to the hives of empty combs, some of which were not carefully closed, and for a day or two they had quite a picnic, the last for the season. I found that around the openings where the bees found an entrance, the hives were nearly covered with very dark colored fecal deposits, some as thin as water, and others so thick that they did not spread, or did so only very slightly. These deposits contained no pollen. In each of the four cases I have mentioned, there had been cold weather during which the bees had been either wholly or partially confined to their hives. On three occasions the bees were robbing combs containing honey, and in the fourth case they were carrying in water. I shall not speculate as to whether there was a connection between the dry faeces and the temporary confinement followed by robbing and carrying in water. I simply state the facts.

S. CORNEIL.

Lindsay, Ont., July 1st, 1885.

We are pleased to notice Friend Corneil, that you are prosecuting your researches with such vigor and determination. Facts are what we are after and you will doubtless soon be in possession of such information as will satisfy many on the point at issue.

J. W. MARGRAVE, HIWATHA, KAN., writes July 7th.—My bees are brooding up pretty well of late; the weather has not been favorable thus far—too much wind with very cool nights. We hope to get them strong by the first of August, which is our principal honey month.

For the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

BALMY FLORIDA.

ITS HONEY RESOURCES AND OTHER INTERESTING MATTER.

NO one in this sunny land it was amusing to read the articles in your BEE JOURNAL about the proper time to set out bees, etc. One here can hardly realize that you are yet in the midst of Winter and bee hives in the cellar. I have now here in the high pine woods in De Lands some twenty stands of bees which begin to swarm and I turned to extracting the over full frames. The result yesterday was about 160 pounds of nice, thick, white orange honey. This is the first orange honey I have taken. I have been told that orange honey was inferior, but it is pronounced superior to any honey ever tasted by several experts. It is beautifully white and clear like clover or basswood honey, but the flavor is superior to either. The honey I have heretofore extracted has been all very excellent in flavor, but of a dark amber color. Bees here gather honey now continuously until the middle of September, and make a living up to the first of November. They gather but little during the months of November and December, but many seasons they begin to strengthen very much from the early buds and flowers in January. There are many places where abundance of honey can be gathered in Florida. The cabbage-palmetto found in great abundance in many places, yield profusely but the honey has a sharp pungent taste which causes the beautiful white combs to deceive. It's flavor is not agreeable to me and not to be compared with honey gathered in other localities. The idea that Southern honey is inferior came from an observation of dirty Cuba honey—strained honey—made by breaking and mixing up combs and then draining the honey from the wax and other refuse matter.

After an experience of two and a half years I am convinced that there is no section of country so delightful in climate both Summer and Winter. The Summers are even more pleasant than the Winters as northern visitors are fast learning, and establishing permanent homes when business will permit instead of mere Winter resorts. Catarrhs of all kinds, bronchitis, asthma, and rheumatism are cured by the climate, besides great benefit in many other diseases. Lung troubles are cured if the party does not delay too long to come. If tubercles have already formed in the lungs this climate will merely prolong life and make it a little more pleasant in the last stages. We have many fine people from Canada, in fact all parts of the

world, scattered over Florida, and we cordially invite others to come and help develop our state gain the benefit of our climate. Lands are cheap though rapidly advancing in price. There is no better place for investment than Florida lands, as much of it in sections now rapidly settling up can be had from four to eight dollars an acre. The influx of population from the States, Canada, England, etc., is increasing largely every year. There is a saying with great truth that the land is worth \$500 an acre for climate alone, but beyond this there is no place where the profits per acre are greater than from Florida orange groves. Shipment of early vegetables north is rapidly increasing. I shall willingly give assistance to any desiring to come to our state.

JAS. W. SHEARER.

De Land, Florida, April 15th.

We are much pleased friend S. with your description of Florida and if it cures all the diseases we imagine it can it will no doubt become the future hospital of America. It is a delightful country and it seems that you are just in the locality to produce early bees and queens for our northern friends. We were aware that there was fine honey produced in Florida as some of our friends have sent us samples which were very fine. You have made this so interesting that it will doubtless create an interest in the Florida migration. We shall be glad to hear from you again that our northern friends may be kept informed so that they may avail themselves of your very kind offer of assistance when circumstances permit.

ANDREW MITCHELL, WROXETER, ONT.—I recently purchased the stock of bees belonging to Mr. Marks, of Wroxeter. When delivering them he handed me a number of your CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. I like the appearance of your paper, and am pleased to see that such a work has been started in Canada. Therefore I cheerfully become a subscriber.

We will send the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, on trial, for three months to any address in Canada or the United States for 25 cents.

T. S. SANFORD, BRADFORD MAY 21st, 1885.—I wintered my bees on their summer stands, without any loss, in chaff hives. All came out in very nice condition.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear each week, Queries and Replies; the former may be propounded by any subscriber, and will be replied to by prominent bee-keepers, throughout Canada and the United States who can answer from experience, as well as by the Editor. This Department will be reserved for the more important questions, others will be answered in another place. We hope to make this one of the most interesting departments of the JOURNAL.

DO BEES TAKE ANYTHING BUT LIQUID FOOD?

QUERY NO. 24, COBOURG, ONT.—Do bees take anything but liquid food?

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—Yes.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.—Yes, pollen.

S. T. PETTIT, BELMONT, ONT.—They do—they eat pollen.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—They eat pollen, or its substitute.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—As a rule they don't. I do not think they are capable of apprehension by the tongue of solids.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—I don't know whether bees ever take anything but liquid food for their own sustenance or not.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORDINO, N. Y.—I think not, only as pollen is used by the perfect bee in the preparation of chyme to feed the larval bees.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—Pollen is not liquid, and bees surely eat pollen as their tissues have nitrogen in them, and the pollen is the only possible source of this element.

BY THE EDITOR.—Yes, pollen, of course.

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

RENDERING OLD COMBS INTO WAX.

N. H. PIERS, HALIFAX, N. S.—Please give directions to convert old black combs into saleable beeswax, and oblige?

The best way to convert old combs into bees-wax is to get a good wax extractor, which saves more than the price of itself in a very short time; but those who do not wish to invest in a wax extractor may make good wax by putting water in a wash-boiler, setting it on the stove, placing sticks across the inside of boiler, allowing the ends to rest on the projection of the copper bottom; then the combs may be placed in a very thin

cheese-cloth bag, which is laid in on the sticks, enough of which are used to prevent the bag from touching the bottom of boiler. The water surrounds the bag of wax; and in order to prevent it from floating, stones or other weights may be placed on the bag. Fill the boiler with water to about two inches above the weight, and boiling it for a long time will melt the wax. As it passes out of the bag it will rise to the top of the water, where it may be skimmed off, or allowed to cool and then be lifted out in cakes when it may be remelted and caked in a more suitable form for market. Water should always be kept in a vessel when melting, and also under the wax in a dish when it is being caked. This will cause the sediment to go to the bottom of the cake in the water; it should also be kept warm and not allowed to cool for from six to twelve hours when caking the last time, in order that *all* the sediment may have ample time to settle to the bottom of the wax so that it can easily be removed.

INTRODUCING VIRGIN QUEENS.

GEO. P. KIME, EVANSBURGH, O.—If it is not asking too much I would like you to inform me through the C. B. J. how I can introduce virgin queens without loss? I wish to introduce some brown queens to Italian colonies. I have become convinced that in my locality, at least the brown bees are ahead of the Italians for raising comb honey.

We find no more trouble in introducing virgin queens than we do in introducing fertile ones. We simply cage them on combs for about twenty-four hours and then liberate them. Sometimes they have to be re-caged, but very seldom; much depends on the way the bees are handled, but if they are just hatched they may be introduced without being caged. We have sometimes introduced those which have been hatched several days by taking two combs with hatching brood, plenty of young bees on them, and by making the

bees fill themselves well with honey, then standing the two combs close together on the lid of the hive or some other place, parting the combs gently at the top, introducing the queen between the combs, and as the bees move about and do not attempt to interfere with her we close the combs gently together much the same as they would hang in the hive except that the bottoms of the combs are close together. We then quietly open the combs again at the top, and look down to see how the bees are behaving; if they are running *too* fast, or attempting to interfere we can close them together so tightly that they have only room to run between the combs, there being no space left for them to get on the queen to ball her; by opening and closing in this way for a few minutes, and watching their movements we can usually determine whether they will accept her or not; it seldom fails to succeed. When we think she has been accepted, or that she is likely to be, we hold the fore finger of each hand between the ends of the frames, with the thumb and other fingers press the frames against the fingers between them, in this way the two combs may be put back at the same moment into the hive with the queen between them, where she usually remains. If it is done quietly, all goes well, but if she is jarred, she is liable to become excited and run. This is a much better way than placing them on *one* comb, because putting her down amongst the bees is apt to excite her. Hatching cells may be placed in the colony at any time. We introduce thousands of virgin queens every year and never have any difficulty in making it a success.

DR. O. M. BLANTON, GREENVILLE, MISS.—

This year I commenced my bee-keeping with 395 colonies, very few strong ones, and divided them into three apiaries, (77 at "Refuge Apiary," 50 at "Swift Water Apiary," 258 at "Blantonville Apiary,") one seven miles and one twelve miles as the "crow flies" from my "Blantonville Apiary."

The prospect for a large yield of honey is anything but encouraging. Last year the drought from the 20th of August to the 12th of October deprived the flowers entirely of nectar, and with long cold Winter and late wet Spring, all our colonies commenced the season very weak and just now becoming strong for surplus honey, but for the last three weeks we have had a very hot dry spell and the flowers are giving forth but little honey. The swamps and lagoons are drying up, and that will reduce the yield from our vines and aquatic plants. Most of our creepers grow more luxuriantly along the margins of our lagoons and to a great extent in them. I have some photographic views of my apiary, and also a few specimens of our flowers that I will send you. A succession of showers now will be our salvation. I have extracted so far only 5000 lbs. and most of that is of an inferior quality. At my "Refuge" apiary, twelve miles distant, the bees gathered a great deal of aphides honey and I found considerable patches of pupæ dead. I am satisfied their death was caused from being fed on the filthy stuff. One of my neighbors, fifteen miles distant, reports the same condition in his apiary. So you see we have our drawbacks as well as other portions of this continent. I expect to realize only a half crop, unless we have a heavy yield in September as sometimes occurs when we have occasional showers and most of our flora takes on a second bloom. This Spring in putting my colonies in order, I found two with active pretty queens, but no brood and not an egg. I killed one queen and dissected her and could discover no trace of any. The other I kept on trial, and in ten days I examined her and she was laying splendidly. There were no signs of fresh queen cells and I concluded that these queens were hatched in the Fall too late to go to the drones and become fertilized in the Spring. I gave your frames a fair trial in one hive, and am now satisfied that the shallow Langstroth frame is the frame for our Southern country, and from my long experiences the twenty frame (cold) Langstroth hive is the *sine qua non* for the bee-keeper that works for extracted honey.

Thanks, friend Blanton for your letter. We are sorry to hear that you are not getting the tons of honey that you usually get every year; but since that pleasant time we had in Cincinnati we imagine that adversity will not effect you as you appear to be one of those who will accept gracefully, the results, be they favourable or unfavorable.

HENRIETTA F. BULLER, CAMPBELLFORD, ONT.—

As this is the 1st of May I think I may safely send you a report of my success in wintering my bees, and when I hear of the heavy losses sustained by bee-keepers generally throughout the country, I feel that I have no reason to complain at losing two colonies out of nineteen, one of four packed out of doors, and one out of fifteen in bee house. The one that died out of doors I think was smothered by the entrance being blocked by the dead bees inside. I think I gave them too many frames in the Fall, and they (the frames) were too full of honey. The strongest colony outside was one I united in the Fall, and there were so many bees I had to leave them ten frames. They seemed to have consumed no more honey than the other colonies with fewer bees, and covered six frames very well when I examined them on the 16th of April, which after having had no flight for five months and seven days was not bad, was it? I brought some of my bees out of house on the 17th of April and the remainder on the 23rd, and can assure you I was pleased to find them in fine condition, as strong in bees and as healthy looking as I ever had them in the Spring, though my house was rather cold, most of the time not above 36°, and in the coldest weather only 32° to 34°. The colonies I united in the Fall did very well and do not appear to have consumed much more honey than the others, but as I had no way of weighing the hives I cannot tell exactly. Colonies fed with a mixture of white sugar syrup and honey have done quite as well as those fed with syrup alone, and I find no difference in quilts made with cotton batting over frames and cushions of sawdust or cork shavings. I find it a good plan in your hives to make a hole in the side half way up and near the division board, left open in the house without wire gauge over it so that the bees can come out if they wish. The only colony I lost in the house was two very late swarms which I united and I blame the poor honey which I imagine was the cause of the very general mortality. Besides my own, my brother's and Capt. Tice's, I only know of fifteen colonies having survived in this township, and Brighton and Percy from what I hear have fared no better. I should like to tell Mr. P. W. Jones, of Amherst, that in my opinion he signed the death warrant of his bees when he packed them in shavings. The CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL quite comes up to my expectations and I hope it will continue to be a credit to its country for very many years.

We have received several favorable reports from lady beekeepers. It begins to look as if the ladies were going to

surpass the "men-folk" in apiculture. We suppose that it is because the ladies take more pains to prepare their bees for winter quarters than do the men. You all know that when women make up their minds to do anything it is going to be done. It is scarcely necessary for Miss Buller to tell us that she succeeded in wintering her bees, as her success has been quite marked ever since she embarked in the business.

C. MCINALLY, SIMCOE, ONT.—I had the pleasure of visiting Mr. Jones in the Fall of 1884, and have just returned from Beeton this spring, May 15th, and must say I feel under an obligation to the readers of the C. B. J., who have been mourning over empty hives this Spring, to give a brief description of my visits. I would strongly advise those who met with severe losses last Winter, to make Mr. Jones a visit, and I am sure it will never be regretted. There are a great many bee-keepers, who, if they do condescend to impart a little knowledge to the novice it comes with such a reluctance, that it makes one feel a little comforted to meet a whole-souled good-natured fellow, as I know Mr. Jones to be. In asking for information I found he was always ready to inform me of about 100 per cent. more than I knew enough to ask for. After spending some time in the Home Apiary, which was composed of 400 or 500 colonies, Mr. Jones kindly offered to accompany me to some of the outside yards. We visited two and to my astonishment they were fully as well populated as the home apiary. In reference to the hive factory, it is a little building about 250 feet long, just packed full of hives, sections, etc., already to drive in the nails and I would judge from the appearance of the lumber yard, he intended keeping it the same condition for the next ten years. I should like to have had a peep at the engine, being informed by some of the citizens, that it was the largest in the county, but, being pressed for time it was impossible. We must not forget the printing office, tin shop, lecture room, stock rooms, etc., as they are on no smaller scale than the factory I have just described. Now, gentleman, if you want a pleasing as well as profitable visit, if you want to see thousands of dollars invested in the bee-business, if you want to meet a good fellow who is not afraid to lend a helping hand go to Beeton and I am sure Mr. Jones will make you feel yourself at home. Wishing him all success and hoping that the C. B. J. may reach the eye of every bee-keeper in America, as it is

worthy the patronage of every man who possesses one colony, I will proceed with my report. I began in the spring of 1884 with three colonies in the old fashioned box hives, transferred them to the Jones' hive during apple bloom. Bought thirty divided colonies in Jones' hive on eight frames in the latter part of July, purchased Italian queens and increased to 64 colonies. Fed sugar syrup in the Fall. Built a cellar twenty by thirty seven feet and eight feet deep, put down two six inch tile, nine feet under the surface of the ground, and 250 feet long, one tile entering the cellar at the south west corner, the other running on under the cellar and entering at the north east corner. The dead air pipe was made of bell shape, four feet in diameter at the bottom end extending from cellar bottom to stovepipe above. Another ventilator, four feet under surface of ground, thirty feet long, extended through centre of cellar, made full of holes. Cellar walls not having time to dry I packed one foot of dry chaff on inside of them. Carried down my bees the 21st and 23rd of November, took them out 22nd and 23rd of April. Did not lose a colony. Not the slightest sign of dysentery, apparently as strong as when I put them in. Not an egg laid while in cellar to my knowledge. One peck of bees lost during winter out of the lot. My bees now, May 20th, average seven cards of brood to the colony all through the yard; hatching out wholesale; drones crawling on the combs May 18th. Queen cells formed with larvæ in them, and not from being queenless. Have been helping themselves to honey which was in a building not bee proof. We have seeded sixty acres with Alsike mixed with red clover on our own farm. It makes a splendid quality hay, so you see the bees will have a feast.

S. H. MALLORY, DECATUR, MICH.—The sample copy of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL with request to send report of last season's work received. I commenced last Spring with fifty colonies, some of them quite weak. I worked them all for section honey, as there is very little demand here for extracted honey in any shape. Fruit bloom gave honey enough to last the bees for breeding purposes until clover came, which, with basswood, is our principal dependence for our surplus crop. Clover opened profusely about June 10th, and there seemed to be a fair prospect for a bountiful crop from that source, but dry weather came on and soon put an end to all hopes of much surplus from that quarter, and as basswood did not yield much honey, we were left with but little to show for our season's work, except the increase, which was forty prime swarms. No after swarms were allowed. I did

not keep an accurate account of the honey produced, but twenty-five to thirty pounds per colony Spring count is not far out of the way. It is the lightest average I have had for many years. As to my Winter and Spring losses I cannot yet report with much accuracy as the weather is still cold and blustering. I have lost quite heavily, but nothing to compare with some of my neighbors, as they report all, or nearly all dead, where wintered out of doors. My bees were packed in sawdust and chaff, which I consider the safest in this latitude. Perhaps the past Winter may be an exception to the rule, although those who wintered in cellars report heavy losses. Brother Clark with his hibernation theory, seems to be catching, it on all sides, poor fellow. I wonder if he will survive. Those that introduce pet theories and make hobbies of them must expect to get some hard raps. Brother Heddon knows how that is. He expected to be able after the past Winter's experience to cry "Eureka!" In fact he had his mouth all made up for it until he discovered those twenty-five colonies with no honey or pollen in the hives, only sugar syrup for Winter stores, all dead, and no sign of disease. That gave him something of a back set. Never mind, James, brace up and try again. Maybe you will have better luck next time. I like the idea of having a bee journal in Canada. We have them in the east, south and west. Now, let us have one in the north.

J. M. HICKS, BATTLEGROUND, IND.—Bees are booming and gathering plenty of honey. The linden, or basswood, is now in full bloom, and the bees go for it. Bees are swarming a great deal with those who permit them to follow their own methods. But with us our bees have already made over two hundred per cent. of an increase and not a natural swarm yet. We have now commenced extracting honey, much of which is of a splendid quality, good enough for a king's or a president's table. By the way, Mr. Editor, I often think that if our beloved General, U. S. Grant, could have some of our fresh extracted honey it would do him much good. But, then there are the pesky M.D.'s, who seem to know more of disease than of good common sense, and if we do not miss our guess very much, they will do as did the M.D.'s with our lamented Garfield, doctor him into his grave, and then make out such unreasonable charges, asking the U. S. Congress to allow them for naught but quackery and killing.

GEO. W. SCHNEIDER, DORKING.—The C.B.J. is far better than I expected to find it at only one dollar a year. In 1884 had six colonies and one nucleus, Spring count. Increased to twenty-two

and extracted 1520 lbs. of honey. Fed 190 lbs. honey to bees again, besides some sugar for winter stores. Put them in cellar November 17th. Took them out on the second of May. One died, one lost its queen, all the rest are in fair condition. All had lots of pollen and very few showed any signs of diarrhoea in their long confinement of five and a half months.

JOHN CALVERT, WALSH, ONT.—I am a young hand at the bee business as yet. I began last season with twelve colonies, got about 700 pounds of extracted and 50 pounds of comb honey. I wintered my bees in a shed, packed in chaff. I put away 24 colonies last Fall and took them out on the 26th of April. Two were dead, four more have died since. The weather turned cold after I took them out of the shed and stayed cold for several days. Would you advise clipping queen's wing? If two or more swarms cluster together how should I do?

M. B. HOLMES, DELTA, ONT.—My bees came through the winter without the loss of a colony, and since June 15th they have kept me pretty busy. There have not been many days of sunshine, but they seem to improve the opportunity to swarm whenever it does shine, and from the 15th of June to the present I have got twenty-seven swarms. Success to the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL and its most worthy and worshipful projector. May the sun of his prosperity be ever at "its meridian."

J. W. HUNTER, GODERICH, ONT.—What colonies we did put up in the Fall died, as also numbers in this vicinity owing principally to the severe Winter, although fed syrup and appeared to have brood in plenty. I imagine the very dry season here did not leave them in good shape for wintering. I intend trying them again and with the help of your JOURNAL hope for better success.

A. AINSLIE, BEACONSFIELD, ONT.—We commenced to Winter thirty-seven colonies of bees on their Summer stands. They are all alive and appear to be doing well. They commenced to carry pollen on the 22nd of April. We weighed our bees last Fall, and fed them syrup, made of granulated sugar until they had thirty pounds of stores. We think a binder would be just the thing for the JOURNAL.

JOHN McLELLAN, COOKSTOWN.—If my judgment is right I live in a very good locality to raise bees. My house is on raised ground, or a small hill, and close by there is a large tract of half cleared land, slash and beaver meadow, with all kinds of trees and flowers. Have only one colony.

THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

D. A. JONES.

F. H. MACPHERSON

D. A. JONES & CO.,

EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS,

BEETON, ONTARIO.

WEEKLY, \$1.00 per Year, Postpaid

BEETON, ONTARIO, JULY 22ND, 1885.

We can fill orders for Root's "A. B. C. in Carp Culture," by return mail, price fifty cents.

By the way we haven't told you for a week or so how our subscription list was getting along. Well, it is growing just as fast as ever; we expect even many more when the time comes that the bee-man has harvested his honey and has a little cash to spare.

A GOOD IDEA.

"When at work in the hot sun," says the *Farm and Garden*, "put a handful of clover or a cabbage or burdock leaf into your hat. It will keep you cool and comfortable. You need a firm muscle, and a cool head." Bee-keepers should make a note of this.

The force pumps which we spoke of a few weeks ago and which were illustrated, are having a big sale. It seems that they are just what was wanted, and at the price, \$2, everybody seems to think they want one. We have lots of them left.

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.

Our honest conviction is that anybody interested in agriculture even to the smallest extent can make much more than the subscription price of the *American Agriculturist*, by reading and putting into practice many of the good things contained in any one of its twelve numbers in the year. The publishers will be glad to forward sample copies on receipt of a card to their address, 751 Broadway, New York.

EXTRACTING OLD, THICK AND GRANULATED HONEY.

A number have asked how to extract granulated honey out of combs, and old or very thick honey that has been wintered over in the hive; they complain that they can scarcely remove it at all. All that is necessary is to extract that portion which comes out easily, and then place the combs back in the hive. When the bees put new honey in the cells again and you extract the second time all of it comes out it, having been all liquified in the meantime. Even granulated honey is restored to its liquid state, or at least much of it.

TEXAS BEE JOURNAL.

And so we are to have another *Bee Journal* in the U. S. This time Texas is the state from which it emanates. We received a day or two ago the first issue of the *Texas Bee Journal*, published at Waco, Texas, by Messrs. Barton, Forsgrand & Barnes, monthly at one dollar a year. The reason set forth for this new enterprise is the fact that Texas, like Canada, required a periodical of its own, one which would be suitable to its requirements and climate. We welcome this new journal to our exchange list and trust that it may give Texan bee-keepers such an abundance of bee-lore that they may profit and grow successful bee-keepers thereby.

GEM JARS FOR HONEY.

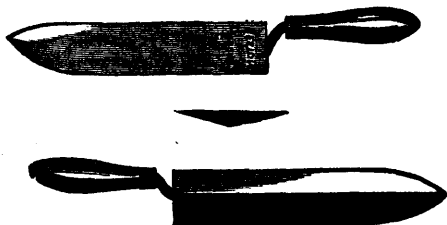
Quite a number of beekeepers have been in the habit of putting up their extracted honey in the "gem" preserving jars, and as they are very handy and useful afterwards perhaps it is not a bad idea after all. As most of you know they are a staple article and they are usually sold low by the retail merchants, but as lots of our customers have asked for them, we have decided to keep them in stock. They are put up in cases of one half gross—six dozen—each, and as the prices at which we offer them are very low, we cannot afford to break bulk, *i. e.* sell them in less than half gross lots of any one kind. The prices then will be; pints per gross, \$14.75; half gross, \$7.50; quarts, per gross, \$15.75, half gross, \$8; half gallon per gross, \$19, per half gross, \$9.75.

HOW TO SHARPEN THE JONES' HONEY KNIFE.

We have been asked to describe the way in which to sharpen our honey knives. They must have a keen razor edge before commencing to uncap. When this edge is put on by the manufacturers, they are apt to get injured in shipment. We had some done in this way and some of the edges were broken. We now have them sharpened as much as is safe, and they only require to be touched up a little to be ready for use. A good oil stone may be used; whet them all from the bevelled side excepting just a slight rub on the upper or flat side to prevent the edge from turning. Some grind or whet them from the top side, which should never be done. After they have been thoroughly sharpened with the oil stone, they may be honed on a razor or leather strap, until they are sharp as a razor; then they should never be allowed to come in contact with anything except the cappings. The cell should be left as perfect as possible, after the capping is removed the cut must be perfectly clean. If the cells are bruised the honey cannot be so easily extracted, besides it requires much labor for the bees to repair them. Our capping pins

HONEY KNIVES.

We have just to hand a large shipment of honey knives from the makers, Lockwood Bros. Sheffield, England. These are undoubtedly the finest we have had made yet, being the most perfect in shape and neatness of manufacture.



These Knives are made of the Finest Razor Steel.

- Ebony Polished Handle, mirror polish.....\$1 50
- Ebony Polished Handle, glazed polish..... 1 25
- Wood Polished Handle, glazed polish..... 1 00

If by mail, add 18c extra for, each knife.
D. A. JONES, Beeton, Ont.

J. P. CONNELL, Hillsboro, Hill Co., Texas, can fill orders for **Pure Italian Queens** by return mail. Untested Queens, \$1.00. Tested Queens, \$2.00. Send me your order and send for my circular of Queens, Nuclei and bees by the pound.

FLAT-BOTTOM COMB FOUNDATION,
High side-walls, 4 to 14 square feet to the pound. Wholesale and retail. Circular and samples free.

J. VAN DEUSEN & SONS,
SOLE MANUFACTURERS,
SPROUT BROOK, MONT. CO., N. Y

DADANTS FOUNDATION

is attested by hundreds of the most practical and disinterested bee-keepers to be the cleanest, brightest, quickest accepted by bees, least apt to sag, most regular in color, evenness and neatness, of any that is made. It is kept for sale by Messrs.

- A. H. NEWMAN, Chicago, Ill.,
- C. F. MUTH, Cincinnati, O.,
- JAMES HEDDON, Dowagiac, Mich.,
- DOUGHERTY & McKEE, Indianapolis, Ind.,
- CHAS. H. GREEN, Berlin, Wis.,
- CHAS. HERTEL, Jr., Freeburg, Ill.,
- E. L. ARMSTRONG, Jerseyville, Ill.,
- ARTHUR TODD, Germantown, Philadelphia Pa.,
- E. KRETCHMER, Coburg, Iowa,
- E. F. SMITH, Smyrna, N. Y.,
- C. F. DALE, Mortonsville, Ky.,
- EZRA BAER, Dixon, Lee Co., Ill.,
- CLARK, JOHNSON & SON, Covington, Ky.
- KING, ASPINWALL & CO., 16 Thomas Street, New York.

C. A. GRAVES, Birmingham, O.
and numbers of other dealers. Write for SAMPLES FREE and Price List of Supplies, accompanied with

150 COMPLIMENTARY
and UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIALS from as many bee-keepers in 2383. We guarantee every inch of our Foundation equal to sample in every respect.

CHAS. DADANT & SON,
HAMILTON, Hancock Co., ILL.

1-6m.

NORTH SHADE APIARY.

ITALIAN BRES. Full colonies in the L. or the Gallop hives. Nuclei, Queens, and bees by the pound for the season. Price Lists Free. C. H. TOWNSEND,
Almo, Kal. Co., Mich.

MUTH'S HONEY EXTRACTOR

Is second to none in the market. Square Gears, Honey Jar, Tin Buckets, Langstroth Bee Hives, one-piece Sections, etc., etc.

Circulars mailed on application. Send ten cents for "Practical Hints to Bee-Keepers." Address

CHARLES F. MUTH,

976 and 978 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, O.

SECTIONS.

THE NEW ONE-PIECE SECTION.

Though these sections cost more to make than the old style, still we are supplying them at the same price. We keep in stock 3 1/2 x 4 1/2 (ours), and 4 1/2 x 4 1/2 (Langstroth), and can make any other sizes to order on short notice. Prices:

- Per 1,000.....\$ 6 00
- " 5,000..... 27 50
- " 10,000..... 50 00

Sample sections sent on application.

D. A. JONES,

Beeton, Ont

1-tf.

Bees & Queens

At greatly reduced prices. After June 15th I will sell two frames of Nuclei, with two pounds of bees in each, no queen, for \$2.25. Tested queens, \$1.50 each. Warranted purely mated, \$1 each. Untested, 75 cents each; to Canada 10 cents more each queen, unless five or more are taken at one time.

I. R. GOOD,

Sparta, Tenn

ITALIAN QUEENS.

TESTED \$2.00 TO \$4.00.

UNTESTED \$1.00 TO \$2.00.

COMB FOUNDATION.

ROOT'S IMPROVED CELL,

Sheets 12 inch, wide cut to order.

WM. BUEGLASS - PROPRIETOR

BRIGHT, ONT.

TINNED WIRE.

We have just bought a large lot of Tinned Wire, No. 30 which seems to be the number best suited for wiring frames and we are able to sell it very low:

- Spools holding one pound, each..... 30c
- " " one-half pound, each..... 18c
- " " one ounce, each..... 07c
- Reels, of from three to five pounds, per lb. 25c

The spooled wire is much more convenient than that on reels as there is no danger of tangling. These prices will supersede those in our price list.

D. A. JONES,

Beeton, Ont

IMPORTED QUEENS BY MAIL

—DIRECT—

FROM ASIA AND FROM EUROPE.

Cyprians, Syrians, Carniolans, Italians
AND PALESTINES.

ALL REARED IN THEIR NATIVE LANDS.

Imported Cyprians and Imported Syrians.

Grades and Prices of Queens:	before		July		After	
	June 1	June	Aug.	Sept.	1st.	
Finest Selected Queens, each	\$12.00	10.00	9.00	\$8.00		
Fine Prolific Queens, each	10.00	9.00	8.00	7.00		
Smaller & darker Queens each	8.00	6.00	5.00	4.00		

Opening an apiary in Cyprus and another in Syria, I have facilities equalled by no other person for obtaining choice queens of these races. I shall visit these apiaries during the coming winter and return in early spring bringing with me a fine lot of queens. Those who desire Imported Cyprians, or Imported Syrians VERY EARLY can have them mailed direct from Cyprus or from Syria to their addresses during March, and on all queens so sent I will assume three-fourths of the risks, that is, will replace at one-fourth the regular price any that die in transit, provided the purchaser receives mail from New York City within five days time.

Imported Carniolans and Imported Italians.

Grades and Prices of Queens:	before		July		After	
	June 1	June	Aug.	Sept.	1st.	
Finest Selected Queens, each	\$7.00	\$6.00	5.00	\$4.50		
Fine Prolific Queens, each	6.00	5.00	4.50	4.00		

I have several times visited both Carniola and Italy, inspecting at each visit a large number of apiaries, and also have, for several years, kept side by side imported stocks of both of these races, and I unhesitatingly give the preference to the Carniolans. They are the gentlest bees known, equal the Italians in honey-gathering qualities and in point of beauty, and far excel them in prolificness and hardihood.

Cyprians and Syrians Fertilized in Carniola.

Prices two thirds those of Imported Cyprians and Imported Syrians.

All these queens are selected daughters of fine imported stocks, are reared in full colonies, and are fertilized in Carniola itself, where of course ONLY Carniolan bees exist. From these crosses bee-keepers may expect the best results which can be obtained through crossing any two distinct races.

Imported Palestine Queens.

(SO-CALLED "HOLY LANDS.")

Prices three-fourths those of Imported Cyprians and Imported Syrians.

Though Palestine bees possess some valuable qualities common to Cyprians and Syrians, still, on account of their very bad temper and poor wintering qualities I cannot recommend them for general introduction. To fanciers, however, who desire them, I will say I can furnish as fine imported queens as are to be had in Palestine.

During five years experience in bee-culture in the Orient, three of which were passed there, I have neither seen any foul brood or sign of foul-brood, nor have I ever heard of its existence there. None exists in this portion of Germany, and having examined the apiaries from which my Carniolans and Italians come, I can also testify as to their healthful condition.

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