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WHOLE No
472.

ANNUAL MEETING OF ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

(Continued from Page 225).

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and gentlemen: I think I can promise you I will not take up many minutes of your time to-night. I have come to the meeting to listen to your discussions and hear what you have to say rather than to give you any information or enlighten you. The Minister and myself make a practise, as far as possible, of attending all conventions, especially when we are invited; some, times we are not, but as a rule we receive invitations. We do this that we may keep track of the work that is being done by the Associations working in harmony with our operations and that we may meet the men concerned. You can find out a great deal more about the working of an association by coming and sitting here and listening than by reading their reports or listening to delegations. The remark has been made in our department more than once, I suppose in looking over your reports, putting them through the press and so on, that the members of this association appear to be living up to their business. There is a good deal of honey in it as well as a good deal of the sting of the bee. (Laughter) And it is well that the two are mixed, or rather that some of the stinging ques-

tions and remarks are afterward soothed over by the sweetness of the honey. I am very glad indeed through these discussions which become more or less heated the members do not forget themselves but that more or less of what we call gentlemanly treatment is found to wind them up. It augers well for an association to have active, live, wide-awake members if you do not carry your discussions to too great length. I am sure nothing but good will result from keen, close criticism of these questions, the one we had up this afternoon and the foul brood question which is coming up to-night.

Before I make any further remarks I would like to refer to one question we have under consideration at the present time. Your secretary has somewhere a letter from the Minister of Agriculture. He called me in just before he was leaving for Chicago to attend the Live Stock Fair there, knowing I was coming down here, to tell me he had written, not a letter of invitation exactly, but making a suggestion and hoped you would fall in with it perhaps. An explanation might be in place. You are quite well aware we have for the last three or four years been carrying out at Guelph and been developing there a live stock institution which has become the greatest educational fair held on the American Continent. I don't think that is putting it too strongly; it is what the

great American live stock men themselves state. Next week this fair will be held there — the greatest educational fair ; not so large as the Chicago fair but in its educational and beneficial features far outranking even that. After some four or five years we have brought that up to what may be considered its maximum condition ; and we have thought, especially in connection with the Fruit Growers movement in this country, that a fair somewhat along those lines might be inaugurated to benefit the fruit growing interests, and then the question at once came up, if that is so, why could we not take and affiliate with it the honey interests. I don't know whether we are going to work that out or not. The proposition is to have the Fruit Growers Association meet in Toronto next year, say in the month of November, and the probability is if we can get suitable accomodation we will make the experiment of having in connection with it an Ontario Fruit Fair at which fruit will be exhibited, at which all the implements and instruments used in connection with fruit growing will be exhibited, instruction given and so on. If that is done could not the bee keepers come in and cooperate and have a portion of that? (Hear, hear) If that should develop we would like to have your cooperation. I do not say yet that it will but we are thinking pretty seriously of it and if we can get the building and get the ground we are looking for I think we will have the hearty cooperation of the fruit men and it would be a fine thing for the fruit and honey industries of this country to have them united—fruit honey and flowers—I have no doubt we could add that and have the fair at a central point in Toronto and in connection with it you might hold your annual meeting. Do not lay

your plans definitely too soon until you see what is likely to be done in connection with that and if we decide to go on with it I trust you will come in with us and help to make it a great success. The idea will be to begin on a small scale and gradually build up until it assumes Provincial if not Dominion proportions.

I am sorry indeed that the bee keepers have not been able to hold their meeting here in Trenton earlier in the year. You come and you are entirely concerned with the business of this meeting and you seem to have more business than you will be able to get through with and properly settle. I do not know whether those who have come from a distance understand you are meeting here at, so to speak, the gateway to one of the most beautiful spots in the Province of Ontario, in fact in the whole Dominion of Canada. I know what I am speaking about because I was brought up at the other end of this beautiful Bay of Quinte and spent many a year around its shores in various places. We are here on a spot that I say is one of the most beautiful spots in all Canada. If you were here in the summer time and could take a boat and go up and down this beautiful Bay, especially in the month of June when the shores are green and the orchards in such fine condition, you would be charmed with the appearance of it and go away with a very much better idea of the town and locality than you can have by visiting it in the winter. You are on historic ground, too. Just past the place where we are sitting the old French fur traders, the first French explorers of this country went up and down through the old historic Trent valley. There are historic associations then in addition to the beautiful scenery we have here. It is almost exactly one hun-

dred and twenty years since the first settlers were set down in this section. One hundred and twenty years this fall. I think it was in 1783 the surveyers came up from Quebec with a few advanced explorers. They went around this Bay and spied out the land and found it was indeed the Promised Land for those who had been compelled to leave the farms and comfortable homes across the lake on the Hudson River. They were quite satisfied with this section. In the early spring of 1784 they came into this country, which was then in primeval forest, covered densely along all these rivers and upon the shores of the Bay. From 1784 to the beginning of 1904 is just one hundred and twenty years and the agricultural development of this section which will correspond also with the agricultural development of some of the sections of this Province, has been one of very great progress and interest. If you pick up one of our text books in history at the present time and look over it I doubt very much if you will find anything that would refer to that development. You will find a great deal about the various wars that have taken place; the first war of conquest; perhaps a little about the settlement of the original settlers on some of these lands; find a good deal about the War of 1812 and the Rebellion of 1837 and the Fenian invasion, and a little about our Legislative enactments, but I do not know that you will find anything in any of our histories said in regard to the development of the people just such as you are, the men who have made their living out of the fields and the forests and the orchards of this country; and after all it is in the history and development of the people just such as you are that the true history of this country should

be made. It is all very well to understand about the keen struggles that have taken place for maintaining possession of this country but it has always seemed to me that that unwritten history of the common people, of the agricultural classes, of the great laboring classes, after all, is the true and genuine history of a country. (Hear, hear) I have said it is just one hundred and twenty years since the first settlers were located around this Bay. When the surveyors came in they started at Kingston and the first township there was surveyed and called No 1, and then came No 2, 3 and 4; then they crossed over into Prince Edward County and numbered the others and came around the head of the Bay to the Indian Reserve below here, and in all they surveyed eight or ten townships, and for many years these townships went simply by their number, and townships No 1 and 2 and so on later on were given the names that they bear to-day. If you take from 1784 when these first settlers came in here and hewed out their little clearing and built their log houses and set up what few family possessions they had brought with them — if you take thirty years from that it will bring you down to 1814. Thirty years is a generation. So that from 1784 to the close of the War about 1814 we have the first generation of settlers, in this section, and the agriculture of that period must have been of a very crude form indeed. After the trees were cleared away so that they could sow small patches of grain you can easily see there was practically nothing left to be sent to market except the trees that had been cleared away; so that for the first generation of the first thirty years of the settlement the two main articles that the farmers had to send to market consisted of timber

and ashes. I am giving you these facts to put before you a birds-eye-view of the development of this section in which we are meeting to show what wonderful strides we have been making. That first thirty years belongs to the farmers as the producers of those two marketable articles, timber and ashes. The ashes were sent across the line, sometimes they were more or less reduced to potashes and so on and the timber floated down these streams to Kingston, Montreal and Quebec. After the war of 1812-14 we come to the next thirty years of the agricultural development of this section — to 1844. Now, they had cleared around this Bay sufficient land to enable them to grow grain, and in place of solid forests we had extensive fields where wheat and oats and other grain crops were grown. The farmers had taken quite a decided move forward and they were beginning to ship from along the bay and along the St. Lawrence large quantities of grain; and wheat was then the great marketable article. Those were days when wheat was king here in Ontario just as wheat is king to-day in Manitoba and the North West. Now from the crude forest products to grain was quite a step in advance. Then we move on to the next generation from 1844 to 1874 and perhaps this period will appeal to a great many of you who come from other sections. It was during that period that the great movement set in from England from Scotland and Ireland. After the close of the great Napoleonic wars in the Old Country the regiments in the Old Country were disbanded and sent home and homes had to be found for a great many of them and large numbers of these soldiers were sent to this country, and following in their track came a steady stream; Scotchmen, Irishmen

and Englishmen came across the ocean in small sailing vessels, and up the St. Lawrence, around the Bay of Quinte and along beyond and began the settlements to the north and west of the old original settlements. The coming in of these old country settlers made quite an important change in the agriculture of this Province. The Old Countryman as a rule is very fond of stock. I don't know whether the thought has struck you or not but if you go to London in England as a centre and draw a circle of say two or three hundred miles from that you will surround practically all of the original homes of the best cattle, sheep, swine, and horses that we know to-day. In the northern part of France and Germany, in England and Scotland and part of Ireland, in that little north western section of the European Continent we have the original homes of nearly all the best pure bred strains of live stock. So, as these old country settlers began to come over in a steady stream from the Old Land they brought with them into our agriculture a new element, that is a love for fine high class stock. To that period we date back the beginning of our short horn industry, our best breeds of horses, our best sheep, our best breeds of swine. So coming up to the third generation we have advanced from the grain growing condition to the live stock condition. That brings us down to 1874. Then from there on to 1904 to the thirty years we have just passed through we have added a further development; we have had the development of our dairying industry, the wonderful development of our fruit industry and I think we have had a fairly good development of our honey industry. If it belongs anywhere it belongs to that last generation. We have been raising step by step in the

grades of Agricultural work. First of all it was a very crude condition, then we got onto the higher level of grain growing, then a step higher into a line of the production of pure breeds of stock and later we have gone into those specialities of butter, cheese, fruit and honey, so that now we have become, so far as agriculture is concerned, a community producing these specialities, and hence it is that we have to-day not simply the old agricultural society of forty or sixty years ago which was a comprehensive society taking in everything and looking after everything, but we have found it advisable and in fact necessary that all these lines of special work require their organizations to help and assist; and so we have developed the Fruit Growers Association, and so we have developed these various Live Stock Associations and so you have developed also the Bee-Keepers' Association with which you are interested; and the question of course that would next naturally propound itself to one considering this, is, what will the next thirty years do? Are we going to specialize still further or make still more rapid progress in development in the lines we are following out? We are no longer a grain producing country. It would be very foolish on our part to think the agriculturalist should be made to depend in any particular on the production of grain. Grain growing now is an important feature of our work simply as it helps to build up one of the higher industries. I suppose we shall always continue to be one of the choice live stock breeding sections of the North American Continent. You have read in the paper in the last day or two perhaps that our Ontario breeders have been practically sweeping the board at Chicago this week with their lines of livestock. (Applause)

It is in this line in which they excel. We go over every year and we open the eyes of the Americans. In fact I suppose we open the eyes of our own people to quite as great an extent. They say, Isn't it wonderful that the Ontario live stock breeders go over there and capture the majority of prizes along certain lines, short horns, sheep and so on. The matter is very easily understood if you go back to the foundation of it. We have to start with, a country which is eminently adapted to the raising of livestock.

We have here a good soil. We have a good climate and we have good water. Now, I do not know that you can find any other section of the North American continent that has those three elements so beautifully united as we have right here in the Province of Ontario. Take one of the Western States, people say why can't they grow out there just as fine stock as they do in the Province of Ontario? They have just as good air, good soil, perhaps as good as we have, but they haven't the third element, they haven't the water. Go somewhere else, they may have the water, but they haven't the soil. Then, add to that the fact that the foundation of our work here, has been brought from the original homes in the Old Land, from England, Ireland and Scotland, and we have got the soil, the climate, the air, the stock to begin with, and then we have imported from the Old Land the men who have been trained and brought up to it for generations. So that I think we may safely look to it that this Province, all things considered, is likely to continue to specialize along that line of high-class stock; and we have shown that in our dairy work we have gradually built up a very fine industry. There is no reason why we should not continue to

still further improve. Our fruit work I think is just beginning to open up. The possibilities of the fruit growers in the Province of Ontario are something beyond our present calculation. It simply depends upon the demand elsewhere and the providing of facilities for transporting our fruits to the markets of the world. You are located here, I suppose, in one of the very finest apple growing sections in the Province of Ontario. You have only to go into a storage warehouse here and examine the fruit, and if you have never seen first-class apples before you will be able to see them here. This northern section along the shores of Lake Ontario, from Kingston on the east to the head of the lake, is probably one of the best apple growing sections on the North American continent for certain varieties. There are other sections, the north shore of Lake Erie, the east shore of Lake Huron and the south shore of the Georgian Bay, around Lake Simcoe and part of the Ottawa Valley and the St. Lawrence, which are also remarkably adapted for other varieties of apples, but here we have along this north shore a section that is not surpassed any where in Canada for the growing of certain varieties of apples and pears. They have not gone into the business of growing peaches for the reason that they can grow apples here and sell them and buy better peaches than can be grown in the west.

Just put it in this form, supposing we were able to send our peaches and our grapes to the Old Country market, you go to the market in the Old Country and ask for a peach and when you are asked a shilling or perhaps a shilling and a half or two shillings in certain seasons of the year for a peach, you think at home you could have got a whole basket for that, and the question comes to your

mind, there is something wrong. If they can get that high price what a wonderful development of fruit growing wealth there would be if we could only bridge over that chasm, so to speak, between the cheap fruit at home and the Old Land. These problems are being gradually worked out so that our fruit growing industry may be developed ten fold to what it is to-day. Right along with that industry it seems to me comes the development of our honey industry. You have been told that in the Old Country and elsewhere in Canada there is an unlimited market for honey of the right quality. I suppose that is a truism. There is always an unlimited market for first-class goods, no matter of what nature, and the trouble always is that there is so much of a second and third rate material on the market and so little of the first-class. If the Association can do nothing else than help raise that second and third rate class up to the first class then you will be doing not a little towards developing the wealth of this country and improving the condition of the great agricultural class with which you are so intimately associated. Now, you know more about that phase of it than I do. I thought probably a few of these other points in connection with the original settlement and development and the relationship of this country where you are now located might, perhaps, add some little interest to your visit here, and you might possibly carry away with you some recollection of the old town of Trenton that might have escaped you had your attention not been called to it. You are meeting here on historic ground, and if you are ever along this way in the summer time whatever you do, do not miss taking the boat at one of these points and taking the trip down through this beautiful Bay of Quinte and I think

you will thank me for the suggestion for you will be well repaid by its beauty. Some of the finest orchards in the Province are on the shores of this bay. Twenty-five years ago the agriculture of this section was of an entirely different nature from what it is to-day. I have, myself, seen a row of farmers wagons a mile and a half long waiting at the elevator to deliver barley which was worth, in some years, from \$1.00 to \$1.25 a bushel. The farmer went barley crazy, and it was shipped across the water here to Oswego and Rochester. It always struck me in those days as most remarkable that these old temperance men down around the bay should be growing barley in such enormous quantities. Their temperance principles did not seem to lead them to cut off the barley supply. It was rather remarkable for, as you know of course, there was a time when this whole part here was thoroughly temperate in its sentiments, and it is even to-day, but it was thoroughly prohibitory in its sentiment then. But, they were growing barley and making money very fast and impoverishing their farms, and suddenly the American market was cut off in a moment and the farmers left stranded. A more hopeless and helpless lot I do not think was ever found on the American continent than the farmers on the Bay of Quinte after the American barley market was cut off. What has brought about the improvement? The farmers in all this bay section are well to do. They are happy and prosperous once more: their farms are getting into fine condition. They have brought in other markets; they have begun to specialize. Cheese factories have gone up; they are making butter and cheese, and their orchards are beginning to produce, and in place of the old barley which was impoverishing their farms they

are now producing and sending to the market more saleable and valuable articles, and the sale of which is not impoverishing but rather enriching their farms.

Sometimes we think we are pretty hard hit when we do not get everything just as we like it, but by making the best of what seems to be untoward circumstances and difficulties we very frequently put ourselves in a far better position than we were before. They had their difficulties. They have got over them, and they are in far better shape to-day than they ever were. The dairying industry has developed along with the great pork and bacon trade, and I suppose the farmers of Ontario are in better shape to-day than they have ever been. Take one example that came under my observation the other day: The cheese of the Province of Ontario is all marketed through cheese boards — Belleville, Madoc, Napanee, Kingston, Gananoque and so on—and the cheese from all the factories around is sold through that cheese board. Now the Brockville Cheese Board is one of the largest in the province. It takes up the cheese produced and handles it over a large portion of the counties of Leeds and Grenville, not all, however, because there are others not very far away. There was sold this year through that board cheese worth sixty per cent. more than was sold last year. Last year was one of the best years they ever had, but this year on account of the favorable weather, good pasturage and so on, it was thirty per cent. ahead of last year, and the price 30 per cent. better than last year, the consequence has been that through that cheese board there has been sold this year cheese to the amount of \$1,700,000. Think of the value of that to the farmers around in that section. It simply put those farmers on their feet

—we hope it won't carry them off their feet—and it means at the same time that the town of Brockville has at its back that much wealth to keep it going, because all that money must gradually come in through that town. Talk about the value of factories in a town! Talk about town industries! Do you think they could start up in the town of Brockville twenty factories that would insure them to anything like the extent that the cheese industry does around there. Now, the possibilities of the development of the honey industry are exceedingly great. You have hardly touched the fringe of it as yet. If we can only get it in proper shape to the Old Country and the North-west, and these must come, and the bee-keepers of this province will be acting wisely if they shape their course so as to take possession of that North-west market in proper shape and also look after the Old Country market. There is only one way in which it can be done. You cannot deceive the Britisher more than once. It is only by keeping the quality up and the box well filled up to a proper limit that you will be able to satisfy him and keep yourself in good accord with him.

I hope your meeting may be very successful, indeed, and no matter how warm your discussions may be, that

Continued next month.

Fruit, Flower and Honey Show to be Held Nov. 8-12.

At the meeting in the parliament buildings yesterday afternoon to arrange for the proposed Provincial fruit, flower and honey show, Dr. Orr made an unsuccessful effort to have it held in connection with the Toronto Industrial. Dr. Orr argued that it would

be far more satisfactory to the exhibitors if this was done, and as to the educational features of the show, he declared that these could be carried on to far greater advantage at the great fair, attended as it was by thousands of the very people they were anxious to reach. It was pointed out to Dr. Orr, however, that the Toronto fair is held too early to display winter apples and demonstrate the methods of packing, which is regarded as one of the most important features of the proposed exhibition.

It was decided to hold the show in the Granite Rink, Toronto, on the five days commencing November 8th, and a committee was appointed to look after the details. The Toronto Horticultural Society, the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association and the Ontario Bee Keepers' Association have each four members on the committee, while the Toronto Electoral Association and the Florists Club are represented by two members each.

The annual 'mum show will be held in connection with this exhibition. There will be a display from the twelve experimental stations of the Province, and the Dominion Department of Agriculture intends to make an exhibit of commercial fruit packages and methods of packing.

Mr. G. C. Creelman presided at the meeting, and among others present were: — Representing the fruit growers, Messrs. Pettit, Bunting, Race, Rickard, Hogetts, Scarth, McKinnon, McNeill; representing the bee-keepers, Messrs. Sparling, Cousens, Smith, Sibbald, Cowan; representing the Horticulturists, Messrs. Tyrrell, Ross and Chambers. Mr. H. B. Cowan, Superintendent of fairs, was elected secretary.

Much interest is being taken in the show, and it promises to be a great success.—Toronto Globe.

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[Department conducted by Mr. R. H. Smith, St. Thomas, Ontario. Queries may sent direct to Mr. Smith or to the office of the Canadian Bee Journal.]

QUESTION

What do you consider is the best method for building up weak stocks in the spring? Is it wise or otherwise to take brood from strong colonies to build up the weaker?

Algoma

Subscriber.

ANSWER

The first fine warm day in the spring, after the bees are set out and they are flying freely, I see that each colony has a clean hive, plenty of stores, and a laying queen, any that are found to be weak in bees are confined with close fitting division boards to the number of combs with stocks they can cover, we place a thick cushion on top of the quilt, reduce the entrance to half an inch and they are let alone till we think they may need more room when a clean comb is placed to one side of the brood nest. This is repeated as the colony becomes strong enough to use them.

I do not think it wise to take brood from colonies in early spring to give to the weaker ones. However during fruit bloom, when the strong colonies are filled up, they might spare a frame of brood for the weaker colonies, and the space filled with an empty comb or full sheet of comb foundation. Be careful not to give a weak colony more brood than they can cover.

QUESTION

What is the best time to introduce new queens and how do you do it?
Brant Co. Subscriber.

ANSWER

If the new queen is to replace another, there is no better time than when they swarm and it is a easy matter if the old queen is clipped. The new queen may be ran in with the swarm after removing the old queen, or perhaps a safer way would be to have the new queen in a cage with the small opening stopped with good candy so that the bees may release her. At any other time queens may be introduced safely by first removing the old queen and all unsealed brood, leaving the new queen in a cage as before mentioned. If honey is not being gathered feed a little every evening.

QUESTION

Providing you did not have sufficient drawn comb, would you place comb foundation in the brood chamber, and drawn comb in the super of the new swarm, or vice versa?

Grand View Ont.

D. H. T.

ANSWER

If the swarm is small or medium I would hive them in the brood chamber only, give them all the combs I had and fill up with full sheets of wired foundation.

Should it be a very large swarm, I would use the combs in the brood chamber if they were worker size of cells or dark. If however the combs were clean and new or drone size cells. I would place them in the super with a perforated metal board between the brood chamber and super, and use full sheets of wired foundation to fill up the brood chamber.

St. Thomas Ont.

R. H. S.

THE
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BRANTFORD - CANADA.

Editor, W. J. Craig.

JUNE, 1904.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Reports since our last issue only go to corroborate what has already been stated regarding winter losses. There has also been considerable spring dwindling, and many weak colonies have disappeared altogether since Spring opened. The stronger colonies, however, have built up splendidly within the last two or three weeks. The Spring has been late and vegetation slow, but this has been rather a fortunate circumstance for the bees; had it been rapid, clover would have been out and the bees would not have been in condition to take advantage of the flow; as it is, we believe there are reasonable prospects for a fair honey crop. Clover has been badly winter killed in some districts, but recent rains have improved matters immensely, with warmth now, there will be a fair show of white. Basswood is promising, if weather will be suitable.

The Executives of the Ontario Fruit Growers, Horticulturists' and Bee-Keepers' Associations, met in Toronto on Friday, May 6th, and

arranged for a joint Fruit, Flower and Honey Show to be held in the Granite Rink, Toronto, Nov. 8th to 12th inclusive. The annual convention of these associations will be held in connection, as was suggested by Prof. James at last annual meeting of the O.B.K.A. We have on hand a copy of the rules and the prize list from Secy. Couse which we hope to publish in our next issue, regret that it came too late for insertion in this number.

We would like to see the County Associations take an active interest in this Show so we would have County exhibits and County competition as well as individual; such, we think, would instil new aims and ambitions into County Associations, and would give a freshness to the Show, and prevent it falling into the hands of three or four exhibitors, as is the case in the industrial exhibitions. From a copy of the British Bee Journal, before us, we notice that these are the lines upon which such shows are conducted in England. At the great annual Dairy Show in London there are exhibits of honey from nearly every Shire or County, made up of individual entries,—“Berks ten entries Yorkshire nine entries,” etc., etc. We believe that it would be a great stimulus to our affiliated societies if something of this kind could be conducted here.

One of the things we need at the present moment is vigorous County Associations and a revival of the would mean advancement in every department of the industry

The National Bee-Keepers' Association of the U. S., have announced their annual meeting to be held in St. Louis, Sept. 27th, 28th and 29th, General Manager, N. E. France, Platteville, Wis. sends us the following for publication:—"Annual Convention of the National Bee-keeper's Association in St. Louis: Sept. 27th and 28th, 'International days,' Foreign bee-keepers take part. Sept. 29th, 'National day,' U. S. and Canadian members. Sept. 30th, 'Inspectors day,' diseases of bees discussed: full programme later. Full reports will be taken of entire meeting. I will have in Convention Hall a large map of U. S. and Europe, with a bracket on each State, Cuba, Canada etc. to contain a pound bottle of the kind of honey the State produces, this will be a great exhibit and instructive. Excursion rates to St Louis at this date are expected."

The Rocky Mountain Bee Journal which was so ably edited and managed by Mr H. C. Morehouse, Boulder Colo. has been sold to P. F. Adelsbach, Editor of the Pacific States Bee Journal, and manager of the Central California Honey Producers Association. The two Journals have been merged into one and published under the name of "The Western Bee Journal" a copy of which is now before us. We wish Bro. Adelsbach success. The first issue is interesting and very nicely got up

Canadian Bee Journal and Toronto News (daily) clubbed one year for \$5.00.

A Summer School for Nature Study.

The Macdonald Institute at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, will provide a Summer School for teachers during the coming vacation. The term will extend from July 5th to July 29th inclusive, and the work will consist of practical Nature Study suitable for our public schools.

The classes will be under the direction of Dr. W. H. Muldrew of the Macdonald Institute, and Prof. William Lochhead of the Biological Department in the Ontario Agricultural College, assisted by teachers of special fitness in the various subjects of the course.

The Macdonald Institute is situated on the grounds of the Ontario Agricultural College about one mile from the city of Guelph and is reached by the electric street railway.

The course will be thoroughly practical, involving daily excursions, lectures and laboratory work, the preparation of Nature Study collections and courses of reading in illustration of the subjects discussed. A leaflet giving fuller information may be had on application to Dr. W. H. Muldrew, Dean of the Institute.

Bee Forage

Though others may despise the dandelion as of little value as a honey-plant, I know for certain that every year, given suitable climatic conditions, my bees roar for very plenty when the dandelion is practically the only plant in bloom, and I have many times tasted the newly gathered nectar, which has been distinct in flavor and aroma, of the dandelion.—British Bee Journal.

Hints For Beginners

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

A question often asked is how to increase the number of colonies in an apiary at the least expense. This is a question somewhat difficult to answer. Where the person is a good judge of a colony of bees and the price no greater than that at which some colonies are offered for sale every year in some portions of Ontario, I should say the cheapest way of increasing under the above conditions would be to buy the bees. Buy good colonies and ignore inferior at half the price. In passing let me mention how universal the impression is that hives weighing the heaviest are the best colonies. Quite recently I was moving an apiary of 100 colonies, the men who were hauling them noticed quite a difference in the weight and remarked that some of them (referring to the light hives) were very weak and would not amount to much. Bees, brood and good combs are of greater importance than weight, these cannot readily be obtained when absent, the feeding if needed can easily be done. We will, however, consider that a bee-keeper wants to increase his bees and would like to know how to go about it. He should have plenty of hives, drawn comb is very desirable and a great help. If they are old comb they should be dry, free from unwholesome odors although when increasing artificially this is not of as great importance as where swarms are cast upon the unclean combs. Leave your bees alone until they fill the brood chamber of the hive: if honey is not coming in, at the close of the day uncap a little honey in the

hive, if the stores are scant feed the bees by well known methods but do not feed honey, feed granulated sugar syrup. When the stock is strong and honey coming in divide, having previously ordered and on hand as many young queens as you intend making nuclei. An eight frame Langstroth hive well filled with bees can be divided into three smaller hives. Give three combs of hatching brood with adhering bees to one hive, placing it upon a new stand, and give it a new and strange queen. In another put all but one comb of the remaining brood and adhering bees, there should not be less than two combs of brood.

Shake the bees from an additional comb taking one with the largest number of young bees, they can be distinguished by their smaller and more downy appearance, with this nucleus or young colony put the old queen. Close up with a tuft of grass the two hives newly organized and allow third hive to remain on the old stand with the remaining combs and bees, giving the stock a young queen.

The first made hive with the hatching brood will as the grass dries, lose many old bees by their returning to the hive on the old stand especially as it has not the old queen to attract them. The hive with the old queen on the new stand will have some but less of the old bees return to the old stand. The bees leaving the two hives mentioned will return to swell the numbers in the old hive. A beginner nearly always makes the mistake of putting an insufficient number of bees in the young hives made. In a few days see that the queens have been safely introduced and then feed the bees whenever they are not gathering naturally to stimulate brood rearing and give them room whenever required. If drawn combs cannot be given them

give full sheets of foundation. As to queens, while some of the well known queen breeders sometimes send out inferior queens and some comparatively unknown breeders have excellent queens, as a rule it pays to get the queens from a well known party and do not try to buy the lowest priced queens, I have had high priced queens not worth having but I have never had a very low priced queen worth hive room. If queens cannot be purchased to put in the nuclei then allow bees first to get the swarming impulse and after the queen cells are capped divide. Now let me give a word of caution, there is no system of artificial increase by means of which the operator may not make serious mistakes and get chilled brood and work other mischief. As a rule and unless under exceptional circumstances it does not pay to work for increase. Keep your bees together, get all the honey you can and then buy your increase out of the proceeds. I have a friend whom I advised last summer not to divide his bees but he would do so, his bees were wintered in our cellar and although two of them were no more than nuclei and light in stores only one was lost in the cellar the other hangs between life and death at this date with the certainty of death before it. The transaction was a loss but the temptation for increase with a beginner is often irresistible.

Stimulative Feeding

Nature's way in feeding is most conducive to the growth of the brood-nest; the old dame may be—nay, is—fickle, but when we get warm days, on which our bees gather a good supply of food, and then two or three dull and cold days, then another warm day or two, these are the times of rapid growth of the brood-nest.

The warming-up by the extra gathering of food, coupled with a rise in temperature, gives the preparatory vim that sets the whole united energy of the colony at work putting their house in order, and consequently moves them a stage forward. But the ingenuity of man has been directed to the supply of one continual dribble of food in such small quantity that unless Nature steps in and warms up the energy of the colony it would never grow to that effective "boiling over with bees" condition so requisite to secure that record quantity that maketh glad the heart of the bee-keeper when he totals up the results of the season.—
W. W. in British Bee Journal

The Need of Thoroughness, Perseverance and Specialty.

I am sorry that such a large per cent. of the people who keep bees do not realize the necessity of being thorough in everything connected with the business. Far too many of them are looking for "some other business to go with it," not knowing that hardly one man in a thousand is smart enough to be cut in two, and two men made of him. I have always known that I never was; therefore, I have given my bees my whole attention, as a business, for nearly 50 years. The chances to succeed in bee-keeping are, I think, better now than I have ever known them to be; but, like all other lines of business, you must be thorough in all the details. The time is past when the lazy, careless, shiftless man can compete with the man who puts lots of hard work, energy, and perseverance into his business. In conclusion I will say, either attend to your bees as they should be, or else sell them to some one who will, and then turn your attention to something else.—
E. W. Alexander in Bee Keepers Review.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

By a York County Bee-Keeper.

In view of the great amount of interest taken in the subject of developing our foreign markets for honey (particularly the British) at our last annual meeting, have thought that Government returns showing imports and exports of honey for past year might prove interesting to the readers of the C.B.J. These figures are taken from Customs Dept, Trade and Navigation returns, and are for fiscal year ending June 30th, 1903.

Honey in Comb or Otherwise and Imitations Thereof.:

Imports	lbs.
Great Britain	5,201
B. W. Indies	55,227
Hong Kong	207
China	391
United States	60,214
Total	121,240
Exports	lbs.
Great Britain	14,562
British Africa	500
Newfoundland	60
United States	7,259
Total	22,381

While there were considerable differences of opinion expressed as to the best method of developing the British market, yet nearly all agreed that such a market existed for our surplus clover honey, at a fair price. If such is the case why not "rise up and possess" ourselves of this open-

ing. When we take into consideration the fact that all honey coming into Canada is dutiable to the extent of 3 cents per lb, and that our honey goes into Great Britain duty free, the foregoing figures are all the more astounding. No doubt fiscal year ending June 30th, 1904, will show a more favorable balance of trade in our favor as regards the British market, as I personally know of a larger amount having been sent to England last fall than what is credited by Customs Dept., to preceding season.

Quite recently was in conversation with the representative of a firm that shipped honey extensively last season to England. Results had not been satisfactory from a financial standpoint, and the gentleman referred to, who had just returned from England, stated that in his opinion the only way that a profitable trade could be built up between Great Britain and Canada, would be to have a business connection there to receive honey in bulk and there put it up in suitable packages to suit the trade: such a connection could attend to grading, proper distribution of the product and other incidentals in connection with the trade.

Readers of C.B.J. will recollect that in March number of that Journal, Mr. Grindley a Liverpool merchant advocated much the same thing. He said, "The most satisfactory way would be for the Canadian honey shippers to have a representative in Great Britain. He could then effect sales by sample, and when the goods were delivered, if not up to sample, disputes could be settled on the spot." This may be a proposition worth considering, should we be again blessed with a full crop of honey: Personally, am inclined to think the plan would be all right, provided reliable connections could

be formed and that exports were extensive enough to justify expenses incurred.

WILLOW AND DANDELION AS HONEY PRODUCERS.

I firmly believe that we have no plant native to this locality that yields nectar so profusely as the large growing varieties of the willow family, basswood not excepted: provided the weather is suitable for the bees to gather it, the nectar is always there while the trees are in bloom; have had strong colonies store from 30 to 40 lb in six days: or as there is not more than half the bees in a colony at time willows bloom as there are in July, hence my reason for placing willows on a par with basswood. True it does not like basswood come in as surplus, however it comes just at the time where it gives a tremendous stimulus to brood rearing, literally flooding the brood chamber with fresh nectar. Unfortunately such a condition of affairs has not occurred this spring. Cold cloudy weather was the rule all the time the willows were in bloom and much as the bees needed the nectar—it is all gone for this season. One great feature of the willow is that nearly every bee-keeper can have them, they are easily propagated, grow rapidly and will succeed almost in any soil, a damp location preferred. Another common plant not appreciated as it should be is the little dandelion. Just now the whole landscape is profusely decorated with these golden flowers. Whenever the sun peeps out, the bees eagerly rush out to them and bring in their loads of pollen and nectar. Indeed if the willows and dandelion were taken from us we would have a sorry time getting bees through to clover, as they are practically all the spring flora we have left.

SHALL WE USE QUEEN EXCLUDERS.

Out of 27 replies in column of "Expert Opinion" A. B. J. quite a number say they "would not use them." Was much surprised to find that Mr. France is among the number. Mr. Dadant says if he used a small hive he would use excluders, "with large brood chambers the queen rarely goes into supers anyway." Dear me, how "large" would they have to be. Two years ago we ran short of excluding zinc, a dozen 12 frame Quinby hives with same size supers, were left without excluders, and queen went up and reared brood in every blessed one of the supers. Have seen bee-keepers who produced extracted honey without using excluders: some of those you know who "never" throw out any larvae and juice with the honey. Would unhesitatingly say yea and amen to what Mr. Hasty says on the question: "for extracted honey, excluders ought to be compelled by law—shame that common sense of decency does not compel them without."

Cyanide Destroys

The Wax Moth

Reading so much about the merits of formalin, both in the American and local Bee-papers, as a cure for foul brood, I thought it might interest some of your many readers, to hear of an experience I had with combs the moths had got into. My honey house was a brick room, 17 ft. by 10 ft. 6 in. by 8 ft. high, with racks to hold empty combs. Last year was a very bad one for bee-keepers, my bees disappearing most mysteriously, leaving brood and honey in the hive. At last I had

from 1,500 to 2,000 combs, hanging up, and the moths began their work of destruction. I tried sulphur to fumigate, but was not so successful as I wished, at last I thought I would give the cyanide and sulphuric acid fumes—we use to fumigate the orange trees—a trial. After I had used it I was surprised to see the result. One hive that was just a mat of cocoons was accidentally left standing on the table with a propolised mat tight down over the top. I did not think it were possible for the fumes to penetrate it, but to my surprise I found every grub in the cocoons quite dead. As long as I kept the room shut up, I was not bothered with the moth, it killed eggs and every vestige of life.

For my honey house I used nine oz. each of cyanide and sulphuric acid, and twice that of water [18oz.]. Put the water and sulphuric acid together into an earthenware basin, then drop the cyanide in, shut the door up tight so none of the fumes can get out. Be very careful not to inhale any of the fumes arising from the basin; it is a most deadly poison. Shut the door up at once closing up the key-hole and under the door. Leave it shut up all night, and when you want to enter the room, open the door and let the air blow into it for awhile, before going in to clear all the fumes away. The room must be air-tight. I trust I have made this clear—Geo. Lewis, Glaston, N. S. W. in Australasian Bee-Keeper.

We would be very cautious about recommending this as a remedy. Cyanide of Potash when combined with Sulphuric acid gives off Prussic acid fumes which as the writer has said are of a most deadly character. Formalin or Bi-Sulphide of Carbon are much safer in the hands of the

ordinary practitioner and we think equally effective, for the destruction of the wax moth. Mr. Lewis suggests the Cyanide and Sulphuric acid fumes as a remedy for foul brood—Editor.

Producing Comb or Extracted Honey— Which?

BY C. DAVENPORT.

Which will be the more profitable for me to produce, comb or extracted honey? is a question that those starting in our pursuit sometimes ask, and as I have produced both comb and extracted honey in quite a large way for a number of years, my opinion on this question may be of interest to such. But it is a big subject—much too large to discuss in detail in one article, so it will be necessary for me to be brief, barely touching, or not even mentioning, some things that may have a good deal of influence on the matter.

It has often been said that it requires less work, skill and experience to produce first-class extracted honey than it does to produce first-class comb honey, but, in my opinion, it requires just about as much skill and experience to secure first-class extracted honey as it does the same grade of comb honey: and, as far as the work is concerned, I would rather do the work necessary to produce say \$1000 worth of comb honey, than I would to produce the same value of extracted. It is true that there would be more work about the comb honey, but by far the largest part of the work with comb honey is done during the comparatively leisurely time of winter, early spring, and the fall after the rush of our sweet harvest is over.

In my locality the main, or hardest part of the work about extracted honey, has to be done right in the rush of harvest. Of course, enough combs and upper stories could be provided so that the extracting could be left until after the flow, but there are a good many difficulties about this besides the large expense and storage-room required. It is considerable work and expense to take care of and keep such a large number of combs free from moth worms during the large part of the time they are not in use. But this plan is prohibitive here, owing to the fact that most seasons our clover and basswood honey gets so thick after it is sealed that it is impossible to extract it—that is, the larger part of it does.

And, now I am going to mention something that to many may seem at least strange, if not hard to believe, which is, that, in many seasons here, weak colonies will not produce first-class extracted honey. This has been noticeable the last two seasons, which have been exceptionally cool and wet during part of the flow. I have, in my store-room at this writing, between 5000 and 6000 pounds of extracted clover honey from last season's crop. Some of this is so much inferior to the rest in flavor that I am selling it for 1½ cents less a pound. It was all extracted at or about the same time, and the only cause of or reason for its being inferior is that it was taken from weak colonies. It was kept separate, for the difference, when extracting, was very noticeable. The honey in the combs taken from strong colonies, would be so thick that it was hard to throw it out. It was also hard to uncapp it, for the honey was so thick and waxy that the knife would gum up badly before the side of a comb was uncapped. But the honey in these combs from weak colonies was altogether differ-

ent, though they were left on the hives until well sealed. A knife would work on these combs all day without gumming up, and it took but a few turns in the extractor to throw the honey out, and while this honey was very thin, compared to the other, it was not sour, but it had a different and inferior flavor.

Now, another fact that may seem strange, is that this thin honey is now candied so solid and hard that it is almost impossible to dig it out of an open can, while the other is just beginning to granulate.

Although I am straying from my subject, there is another thing I would like to mention. Last season I did not order enough 60-lb. cans so I used a large number of round dairy or milk cans; these hold about 50 pounds, and I prefer them to the square cans for my retail trade, but as they have open tops and loose covers they do not answer to ship honey in.

I sent samples of this second grade honey to many of my customers at a distance, and received a good many more orders than I expected, probably on account of its cheapness. In order to get it into shipping cans I had to heat it, and as I thought it did not have much fine flavor to lose or injure, I just set these cans in a large tank of boiling hot water, and kept the water at or near the boiling point until the honey was melted; and this treatment, instead of injuring its flavor, improved it greatly, according to my own taste, as well as a number of others to whom I gave samples of the two kinds. Afterwards I treated four cans of the best grade in the same way, in order the more easily to get it into shipping cans, and nearly, or quite, ruined it for table use; and I find that it is almost impossible for me to liquify this best grade slowly and carefully enough but what its flavor is injured.

Now, just what should make this difference in honey gathered from the same fields at one time, by the same race of bees, I do not fully understand. I have often noticed the difference in honey gathered by weak and by strong colonies other seasons, but I never had it occur in such a large way as it did the last two seasons. But this I can easily account for, because I never had so many weak colonies before, and never before in my time was there such cool, wet seasons as the past two were.

The way I account for the matter is this: In a wet, cool season these weak colonies are not able to generate heat and thoroughly ripen honey as it should be.

And now, while on this subject, I should like to say that, in my opinion, no extracted honey ever was, or ever can be, produced in commercial quantities that is equal in flavor to first-class comb honey. I believe that where bees are provided with ready drawn comb to store in, they fill and seal these combs before the honey is as well ripened and flavored as would be the case if they had to build their own comb and store more slowly. But there is a great deal I don't know, but what I would be safe in saying is, that the largest part of the comb honey that is marketed is far from being first-class.

Another thing that might be considered against the production of extracted honey, is that here a large per cent. of these colonies, especially if there is much black or German blood in the yard, will have to be fed heavily for winter. I have a large and growing trade worked up in extracted honey among a class of people who are not able to use much comb honey, and, anyway, at the relative market prices I can make more money from a large yard, by producing both comb and extracted

than I could from either one alone so, unless there is some radical change I shall continue to produce both kinds—about "alf and alf," as the Englishman said. — American Bee Journal.

Black Bees

Some Good Traits

When Italian-blind bee-keepers are able to see the good qualities which blacks possess credit will be given where credit is due.

Why is it that blacks have a reputation for idleness, crossness and general unprofitableness? It seems scarcely likely that it is a baseless reputation for the reason that it is general. It is hardly logical to ascribe it to an instinctive feeling that a black race must per se be inferior. I do not assert that I know the cause, but will offer a suggestion as to a possible cause.

Before the Italians were introduced and for some years later, it was the custom to "take up bees" in the fall. I never have seen this practiced, but have gathered from various sources that it was a general rule to "take up" the heaviest colonies. If this is true, it must follow that the lighter colonies were left to perpetuate the race. It is reasonable to suppose that the lighter colonies had queens inferior to the queens of the colonies "taken up." This custom prevailed for many years and must probably have tended to deteriorate the race.

There may have been some thoughtful farmers who prac-

king up their lighter colonies, and those which seemed least fitted for survival, but it is likely that the majority let their desire for immediate gain overrule their judgement, and took up the very colonies which the end would have paid them better by being left to live.

I know not how the Italian bee has been treated previous to the last 50 years, but since that time it has rarely been given a much fairer opportunity to show its value than is the black.

I hope before it is too late—before the black bee is hopelessly mongrelled by the Italian—that means will be taken to keep the race intact and pure. There are qualities of great worth in the black bee which it would take many generations to breed into the Italian.

Allow me to name a few of these qualities: Black bees enter sections more readily. They cap combs white. They leave fewer light-weight sections. They husband their stores in time of scarcity. They are less prone to swarm.

Those who denounce the black bees have probably had poor and inferior strains; while I have never yet had Italians which would do as well as they are advertised to do. — Allan Latham, Conn; in American Bee Journal.

The black bees of this part of the country have some very fine points in their favor, while they possess some very objectionable features. They are a hardy race that winter without dwindling; are never found to be diseased in any way. Such things as foul brood, black brood, pickled brood or paralysis, do not commence to breed very early in the season, but earlier than the Italians.

The queens are very large and prolific; they cap their honey snowy white, are good workers but not quite as good as the Italians. They will enter the supers almost at once when the first honey flow comes. In the spring they work better in the supers than the Italians, putting all their honey above the brood chamber. If they have the room they do not crowd out the queen like the Italians; they are fine queen-cell builders. Their objectionable points are their ill-temper; they are more vicious than the Italians, when we smoke them down they come back just as quick as the smoke stops.

Not so with the Italian. They are very excitable and will run off the combs when being handled and easily become the prey of robbers or the wax moth. They are very easy to become discouraged and seemingly just give up when they get weak or the wax moth gets into their combs. If we could eliminate these few objections they would be the best race we have; but those three points are very serious marks against them. If anyone has ever seen black bees with paralysis we would like to hear from them.

If as much care and selection was given the black race of bees as has been given the Italians and other races no doubt there would have been great improvements made on the blacks. Their virgin queens are very quick and active. Their drones are the swiftest flyers and very active on the wing. Selection has brought about considerable changes and improvements, and selections should not all be made from the queen side. The drone transmits certain traits to the progeny of the queen that will not come from the queen. Stock breeders use as much care in selecting their sires as they do in the female. The selections

should be made from both sides.—
T. S. Hall, Georgia, in American
Bee-Keeper.

Editor Hill of the American Bee-Keeper in a foot note to Mr. Hall's article says he 'thinks that black bees in south Florida are not less subject to paralysis than other races.' So far as we know of the black bees of Canada they are not less subject to foul brood. Another instance of locality we presume. It is quite true however that much improvement might have been made on the blacks had they received the same careful attention in breeding as the Italians.
—Editor

BRANT COUNTY ASSOCIATION

The Brant County Bee-Keepers' Association held their spring meeting in the Court House, Brantford, on Saturday, May 14th., Mr. Jas. H. Shaver, Vice. Pres. presided. There was a good attendance of members and others and a very interesting meeting throughout.

The reports of wintering showed heavy losses in some instances. Mr. D. H. Tattersall reported on 22 colonies wintered outside in cases, 4 in a case, packed with saw-dust around and dry forest leaves on top, lost 3 during the winter, and two by dwindling since spring opened. Discussing the cause of dwindling some attributed it to the bright cold days attracting the bees out of their hives and being chilled they were unable to return, others believed that the primary cause was poor wintering and lack of vitality. Mr. J. Fisher reported a heavy winter loss in a Bee House

above ground with a straw packing inside the walls. Mr. W. Grieve reported on 38 colonies wintered in the cellar of a vacant house, poorly ventilated and with general conditions not at all favorable, lost 3 during the winter and 5 by dwindling since they were removed. Mr. J. H. Shaver told of his yard being flooded during one of the thaws and of his arising there-from. Mr. J. J. Hurst reported 11 alive out of 13 put away in the fall.

Discussing cellar temperatures R. F. Holtermann said he had averaged at 38° but he believed now that it was too low that 42° is nearer right and in future will provide for it. Mr. Jas. Armstrong emphasized the advantage and necessity of liberal feeding for winter stores, and wintering outside a good depth packing 6 in. around and at least 8 in. on top.

In connection with the discussion on foul brood in the district it was decided to request the President of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association that the inspector of apiaries be instructed to examine a number of small yards in the vicinity as far as possible in the season.

The adulteration of honey by certain wholesale dealers was discussed at some length and a vote of censure was passed upon the Upton Company of Hamilton, Ontario, for seeking to use the good name of "Honey" by placing an inferior article on the market as shown by the bulletins of the Department of Inland Revenue at Ottawa and their analysis. The Association put themselves on record as being opposed to adulteration in any form.

At an evening session of the Association, presided over by the President Mr. Chris Edmondson, it was decided that members should be given the Canadian Bee Journal

membership bonus by their paying twenty-five cents over their membership fee, the Association making good the balance of the subscription.

In the case of a member being also a member of the Ontario Association and already receiving the Canadian Journal a choice of American Journals was provided.

It was decided on motion to affiliate with the Ontario Association, the usual fee to be paid out of the funds of the Association, the Association having the requisite number of members already members of the Provincial Association.

Discussing the prospective Fruit, Honey and Flower Show to be held in Toronto next fall and the advantages of having County competition as well as individual it was recommended that in order to encourage competition between counties that a silver and bronze medal be offered for the best County display of honey and bees-wax at the coming Fruit, Honey and flower Show to be held at Toronto, and that the prize list be so arranged that the honey and bees-wax so entered may also be entered by the individual exhibitors to compete in other prizes, along the same lines as are followed in Great Britain, that copies of this recommendation be sent to the President and Secretary of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association.

CROPS IN ONTARIO

A Circular from the Department of Agriculture reports the following among other Agricultural conditions on May 16 th.

FRUIT TREES

The severity of the winter told somewhat against fruit trees, more especially peaches, plums and cherries, but the injury from frost was not so serious as was at one time expected. Pears and apples suffered least from the cold weather, but these, and indeed nearly all classes of young

fruit trees, sustained much injury from girdling by mice, reports regarding the presence in orchards of these vermin coming from nearly every county in Western Ontario, and from several countries in the east. Complaints have also been received concerning the San Jose Scale, one correspondent giving serious warning of the inevitable evil results attending neglect of attention to this enemy. Fruit trees are about ten days later than usual in blossoming, and this prevents correspondents from speaking with assurance as to the prospects of fruit, although some very hopeful reports have been received. Raspberries and strawberries are described as being badly winter-killed in places, and will hardly be up to the mark.

CLOVER

The condition of clover may be thus briefly described: In the eastern half of the Province the crop is from fair to good, and in some sections very good; in the western half it is from good to very poor. The most favorable reports come from the counties stretching from Lincoln and Welland, along the Lake Erie front, to Lambton and Huron in many parts of which the crop is an absolute failure. The greater part of the injury to clover was done by ice lying for a length of time on flat or low-lying fields. Most of the loss has occurred with old fields, the more freshly seeded fields almost invariably turning out well. The rains prevailing about the middle of May have given the crop a good start for the season.

Smoker Fuel

If anything that is intended for the smoker is soaked in water in which a little saltpetre is dissolved, and then dried, there will be no trouble in keeping the smoker alight.
—British Bee Journal.

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