



THE



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Honey Producer.

Its Reading Columns for the advancement of Honey Producers exclusively.

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No. 7.

The Canadian Honey Producer,

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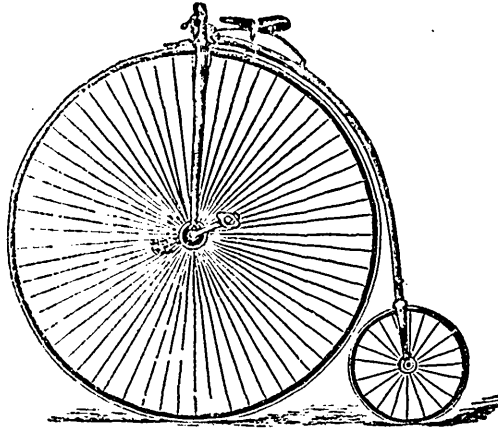
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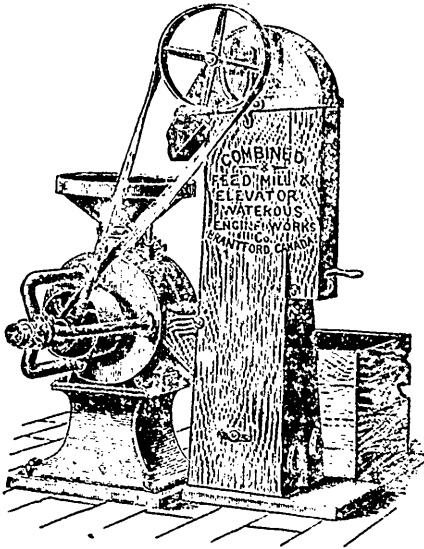
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THE CANADIAN
HONEY PRODUCER.

Vol. 2. September, 1888. No. 7.

OUR OWN APIARY.

July 30th.—Honey has been coming in slowly and we thought it advisable to extract where required. The lower stories have rather more honey in them than is usual at the close of the honey season. This is probably due to the fact that so little honey was coming in that the queen had almost entirely ceased depositing eggs and the bees filled up more with honey. To-day we have extracted, leaving for the present two of the best combs in each upper story for winter stores below if required. The honey secured is very good and we expect to be able to congratulate ourselves on 20 lbs. of surplus per colony, besides queens and bees sold and some increase, as many nuclei had to be made for queen rearing, we are not just in a position to say what the percentage will be. Three natural swarms is all we obtained this year. By actual weight one colony has stored in the upper story 18 lbs. of honey during the last four days.

July 31st.—Honey flow materially failing.

Aug. 1st.—Bees working a little, enough to keep them in a good humor. One of the hands in the apiary was placing a number of queen cells in cages for some purpose, the day before we expected them to come from the cell. The cage has a rubber band which is intended to pass over a piece of comb at the top of the cell so the cell may hang suspended. He however allowed the rubber to pass over the part of the cell containing the queen and of course killed every one. We heretofore never thought it necessary to give such instructions, but now draw attention to the matter.

Too great care cannot be observed in handling queen cells.

Aug. 25.—Bees have been working some on buckwheat, and the flow appeared to have been excellent in some districts. Wednesday night last many fields of buckwheat within ten miles of Brantford were cut off with frost; a number however remain and the bees are occupied. Swarms are reported at Onondaga and a fair surplus coming in there. After September 5th, we will be unable to supply any more queens until October 6th, in fact no one will be in the apiary capable of attending to that business during that time.

Bee-keepers must feel discouraged at the very poor seasons for honey which have followed one another and of which this present is the very worst. It is not for us to say who is to continue to keep bees; such a question must rather be left to the decision of individuals, and as circumstances may direct. The question is one of less importance perhaps to one who is really following another occupation, as a main and is dependent upon bee-keeping for a livelihood in but a very small measure. But to one who has learned bee-keeping with the intention of following it as a business and who will perhaps have thrown away—aside from the fact that any information secured may be of value in a measure—a number of years should he leave it, to such an one the question is one of very vital importance. It is always a bad policy to leave one line of business or one pursuit and follow another. There is no pursuit that has not its disadvantages, its drawbacks and even its time of depression. Who is so independent as the farmer and upon whom is the prosperity of the country at large, and of business men and the manufacturer so dependent upon, aside from any political view as to the importance of every class? Few if any. If the farmer does not have good crops the business men who are largely depending upon

the farmers in an agricultural country, do a very much diminished business. The farmers suffer from the same cause that we do, to a large extent at least, and yet, they as a class do not propose to leave farming. We have failures in business on every hand, there is no pursuit in which the failures so called, do not outnumber the successes. Study the question as you will and what better pursuit can you who are in it, point out to a young man. Every honest calling has its attractions, and those of a more sanguine and less careful disposition will allow these attractions to overshadow the other side until embarked in them and stern realities arise and force upon us the fact that the thorn is everywhere, and it has been decreed by an immutable power that "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread."

We must therefore expect disadvantages in all pursuits when we become intimate with them, and there is no reason why bee-keeping should be left, if the apiarist can tide through until another season. There has been but a very slight percentage of increase. Another winter is ahead of us and many colonies will starve for want of stores, and another spring to pass through.

Since the honey season of 1887 we have passed through a severe winter and a still more trying season; all this will diminish the number of colonies to commence the honey season of 1889. Colonies should therefore be carefully attended to, and cared for. Clover generally has seeded well, and we may hopefully look forward to a better season. Now while we advocate that bee-keeping is as good as any other pursuit, we must also say that many have had rudely dispelled the visions of riches and plenty in a short time with little capital and less work. Bee-Keeping requires to be understood to be carefully and wisely followed, using brain and body to the best possible advantage then and then only, one season with another it will pay to keep bees.

As the majority of the exhibitions and shows will be coming off during the coming month it will be of interest and use for our readers to see how these are conducted in other lands. The British Bee Journal gives an account of the Royal Agricultural Society show. An extract from it will be found in this issue of the Canadian Honey Producer.

There is perhaps much that differs vastly from our system and much that the British can learn from us, and yet there is doubtless much that we may learn from them. Their steps to bring out smaller dealers is a laudable one. For a number of years one firm held absolute sway in Toronto in this line, and with what bitterness they saw another firm step in and bravely struggle to grasp some of the laurels from them, will probably never be known. These two firms have for some time been the only ones who have made any kind of an exhibit. A large quantity of supplies have been brought down by them; many of them not bee-keepers supplies proper, any more than a suit of clothes, and time and again the variety of articles have been counted to see who had the greater number. This is folly, the leading lines of supplies should be judged upon their merits and then other dealers would come down and exhibit, this would perhaps not be quite as advantageous to these two supply dealers, but it will be of vast benefit to the Bee-Keeper and the exhibition. We do not here wish to insinuate that had the judging been done on this line the decisions would have been different, we are not touching upon that question. Our aim is to have steps taken to arrange the prize list to the best advantage for the majority, and at the next annual meeting of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association it is our intention to bring the matter before the Association and have its merits and demerits if there be any discussed in an open friendly way.

DRONES.

Frank Cheshire in vol. 1, page 207 of his Scientific Work says of drones; —Those born of mothers that have never mated (drone breeders) are as perfectly developed and as fully virile as the others. Dwarf drones also, raised accidentally in worker cells, or those from the eggs of so-called fertile workers, or workers which although incapable of impregnation, have yet commenced ovipositing, seem not one whit behind the rest. The spermatozoa which these drones contain I have found perfectly undistinguishable, microscopically, from those in the normally produced insect.

BUCKWHEAT HONEY.

We have on our list of queries one, Is buckwheat honey good for wintering bees? As it will come in late we may say, we have wintered on buckwheat honey with success and more the winters in the past when Bee-Keepers have suffered so much, we know that in buckwheat districts such as parts of Norfolk County, bees wintered well. True this may not have been because their stores were buckwheat honey, but because they had a larger flow. It however helps to show that bees may be wintered upon such stores with success. It is well not to come to a hearty conclusion either way, but we doubt if sufficient proof against buckwheat has been given to warrant its extraction and the giving of first grades of honey. It should of course ripen and be capped before cold weather.

For the Canadian Honey Producer.
A BRIEF BEE SERMON.

BY J. E. POND.

Bee-Keeping as a business at its best, and under the most favorable circumstances is somewhat hazardous. While it is true that one thoroughly posted on the subject, can by hard work and plenty of it, obtain a good living in the long run, and also "lay up a little something against a time of need," still there will come times and seasons that will cause disappointment if not actual discouragement,

and make one feel as though he wished he had never taken up the occupation.

It requires a peculiar aptitude and fitness to make a successful bee keeper, but unless that same aptitude and fitness, is backed up by as full and complete a theoretical and practical knowledge thereof, as it is possible to obtain by study and experience, success will never be achieved.

The many failures that have come to my knowledge, however have not grown out of any lacking on the part of the bees or locality of the apiary, but can be laid in every instance to the bee-keepers. It is a peculiar fact, and one I think that all bee-men of experience have noticed, that those who know the least have many times been the ones to give the most advice, and make statements with a positiveness that is absolutely ridiculous. Many of the statements are published in our agricultural journals, and carry weight with their readers; and sometimes I am sorry to notice, bee-journals contain articles that do much mischief, so far are they from actual truth.

A writer wields a facile pen, has a smattering of bee-love and has perhaps kept a colony or two of bees, and with a desire to gain a little notoriety they send a nicely written article to the papers. The editor perhaps does not examine it carefully, or perhaps desiring to please the writer publishes it, and behold lots of mischief results.

No one is at fault, perhaps, still the mischief is done. Men are induced by many reasons to take bee-keeping without regard to special fitness, and when by reason of their own negligence or folly, failure follows, the whole business is condemned. So with hives and appliances; some one has a hive to sell; in order to force it on the market the idea is conveyed that fabulous results will follow its use; in fact a thousand and one instances, can be given of misrepresentation, that perhaps cannot be set down as fraudulent, still that do immense injury, and seem to whittle the business. This state of things should be changed.

I may be asked, how can that be done? So far as the agricultural journals are concerned, I do not know that there is any remedy, but with the bee journals proper, the remedy is plain and simple.

First the editor should know his business and have back bone enough to conduct it fearlessly and independently. Secondly if he feels as though he must publish certain articles, he should unless he approves of them, give in foot notes his views, else falsity may appear to have his sanction.

An instance at point will illustrate. In a Bee Journal of last week I read the statement unchallenged by the Editor, made by a correspondent who said, "he knew that foul brood was caused by decayed dead brood and by no other cause whatever." Now while I don't wish to prevent any cautions from being published, and while I believe that the presence of dead brood in a hive is slovenly and may cause injury, I do feel that great injury may be done by carrying the idea that such a dread scourge as foul brood only originates from decayed or putrified dead brood, by tending to cause the doing away with that care which in some localities is absolutely necessary to prevent foul brood from ruining every colony within bee flight of an infected apiary.

I myself know that dead brood is not the sole cause of foul brood. I do not believe even that it is a cause at all of that disease; still I allow no dead brood to remain in a hive. If it were the sole cause how easy to eradicate the disease, as it is how hard. The moral is this: No one should write upon a subject he does not understand, and the Editors of our Bee-Journals should publish nothing they do not believe to be correct, or if for any reason they do, they should disclaim the subject matter and show up its incorrectness.

To learn the business thoroughly is a simple matter. A thorough study of some of the text books will give the theory. Two or three seasons work in the apiary will give the practice, and this supplemented with subscribing and paying for, and reading also, two or three Bee Journals, among which I will urge and recommend the "Canadian Honey Producer" as one of the best, will make a Bee-Keeper of the veriest novice, if he has got the natural ability and aptitude to become such.

North Attleboro, Mass. U.S.,
August, 1888.

For The Canadian Honey Producer.

S. T. PETTIT.

On page 366 C. B. J. in an editorial we find the following extraordinary remarks, "No doubt a great many of our bee-keepers will remember the great scare there was as to what we should do with our honey; how we should find a market for it; what we should do to establish a foreign market, now our honey markets are bared of honey. Instead of us having to hunt customers, they have to hunt us. We have raised the price of honey and perhaps it will continue to rise, &c."

Now, as far as I can understand the above quotation, if it means anything at all, it means first—That the so called "great scare" was all unnecessary and unwise, and revealed a pitiable want of business penetration on the part of the alarmist.

Second, that our home markets are and ever will be fully sufficient to consume at increased prices all the honey that this vast country will produce.

I am pleased to own that I was the chief factor in producing and prolonging that "great scare" and hence it becomes my incumbent duty to either defend the position then taken or "own up" that I was altogether mistaken and that the contempt that Mr. Jones seems to seek to fasten upon me is richly merited. The latter in honor I would do, if the facts bearing upon the case demanded it, but do they? Now we all know, and Mr. Jones should be in a position to agree with us, that it is not increased consumption that has "bared" our markets and increased prices, but, two years of scant yield, followed by the present almost entire failure of the honey crop, that has brought about the present state of things, in the honey market. Let me ask Mr. Jones if the present condition is a just and proper criterion by which to judge the future, especially in so momentous a matter to bee-keepers, as a market for our honey?

I take issue with Mr. Jones upon this and assert my former convictions; that bee-keeping can never become a great and profitable industry in this country without a market other than our own. Our natural resources for producing honey are on a gigantic scale but our population is comparatively small.

Perhaps it will throw light on the situation to glance at the condition of things in the neighboring Republic.

The population of the United States of America is fully ten times that of the Dominion of Canada, just how the natural resources for the production of honey of the latter will compare with that of the former I shall not undertake to say, but I believe they will compare favorably. Well we all know that the last three honey crops in the United States have been, like ours, very light and in spite of all this, judging from statements made in the A. B. J. and *Gleanings*, in some parts at least, bee-keeping is languishing for the want of a better market. I think the statement not too strong.

On page 598 of *Gleanings*, Mr. O. M. Blanton writes, "Before honey became so low in price, the Southern bee-keepers had quite a furore for embarking largely in the production of honey; but last year and the year before so discouraged them that the greater number abandoned the business. In this country, where there were twenty bee-keepers in the business on quite a large scale, there are none now, with the exception of myself and Ellen Foster, an old colored woman, a pupil of mine, who has 150 colonies."

In the A. B. J., page 501, Mr. J. S. Harrison writes as follows, "Moreover the low prices at which honey has been sold for some years past have destroyed the incentive to care for and work the remaining bees to their full capacity, and the supply this year will not glut the market."

I submit that it is unfair of Mr. Jones to try to make the impression that we will have no need for an outlet for our goods in the future. Some few years ago the people of our Great North West were in great want, even for the necessaries of life, grasshoppers and perhaps other troubles had destroyed their crops and they were in want; did they lose faith in God and the country and say "our markets are all bared, we shall never have any occasion to look outside this country for a market," and then pour contempt upon those who thought differently? I think not. If any such thoughts were harbored in the country, surely the tens of thousands of broad acres laden with the richest of golden grain ought to banish all such thoughts from

the country now. And so it will be here, in the near future, flowers will secrete nectar, bees will gather it and the markets will be filled, yes, more than filled, they will be glutted and then we will fully realize that that "great scare" had something more than a scare in it.

Belmont, Ont., Aug. 18th, 1888.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Carlingford, July 24, 1888.

THE SEASON.

Unless there should yet be a flow of honey from some unexpected source, the present season's crop will be the smallest since I have been in the business.

The spring was backward and the weather was very cold and dry until about the end of the third week in May.

There were a few very warm days during the last week in April. I took the bees out of the cellar on the 26th and 27th April, some of them having been confined 174 days. About half were wintered in the cellar, the rest being packed in sawdust or in chaff hives. They came through in better condition than usual, and suffered very little from spring dwindling.

Those on the summer stands were the worst in this respect although the packing was not removed until time for placing on the surplus arrangements.

Last year, the cellar wintered bees suffered much more from spring dwindling than those outside.

I attribute this to the fact that when placed in the cellar last fall, the covers were removed and the hives covered with cloths and cushions, giving plenty of upward ventilation, while the covers were left on during the previous winter, other conditions being much the same.

Fruit bloom and dandelions were plentiful, and while they lasted the hives filled rapidly with brood and honey and prospects for a good yield began to look bright. Since that time, although the weather has been as fine as could be desired for vegetation, with rain about when needed, there has been very little honey gathered.

Clover was late and of short duration and did not yield well while it lasted. White clover seems to have been killed out a good

deal lately but there was considerable alsike. Linden appeared to be opening two weeks ago, but is only now in full bloom. So far as I can judge the bloom is not very plentiful, and the bees seem more inclined to work on catnip, motherwort, &c., than on it.

I have only extracted from a few hives yet and will hardly have to take any more before the supers are removed all together. I put 500 sections on colonies that I thought were in the best condition for filling them, at the commencement of clover bloom, but the flow has been so light that a great many of them have not been touched yet.

Are strong colonies of young bees a necessity for safe wintering? Last season, I tried on quite a large scale the plan of hiving swarms on the old stand with one comb and 4 or 5 empty frames giving them the surplus boxes from the old hive. They were left thus until I got home from the exhibition—the surplus of course having been removed. When I examined them I found that they had filled only a part of the empty combs and a great part of what had been built was drone comb. There had thus been very little brood reared after the latter part of June or first of July. When I found them in this condition I fully expected to lose a good many through the winter, but as stated before, they were in better condition last spring than usual and there was less spring dwindling.

HIVING SWARMS ON A FEW EMPTY FRAMES.

The above plan seemed to work very well last year but the present season I have not been able to keep the queens below the honey boards. I tried it with all the swarms that I had in June and in most cases the next time I examined them I would find the queen laying in the supers. Since the first of July I have caged the queens and returned the swarms after destroying the queen cells. Then in 9 or 10 days I go over them and again destroy all cells. In a few days more the old queen may be released or another introduced. This plan will work all right if all cells are removed, otherwise they will swarm with the first queen that hatches. Owing to the poor season I am not able to judge as to how this plan will effect them for honey gathering.

DEAD BROOD.

You will recollect, Mr. Editor, that when you were here I showed you some combs in which some of the brood was dead. The caps of the cells which contained the dead brood had perforations in them, something the same as in foul brood. The colony from which the combs were taken was queenless at the time, having lost their queen a few days before. The old brood would all be hatched before they had another laying queen as they did not succeed in raising one from the eggs then in the hive.

I examined them the other day and found that they still have the dead brood. I have also found another colony affected in the same way. You said it was not foul brood and I am of the same opinion, although I have never had an opportunity of examining the real foul brood.

I think this must be the same as the "dead brood" spoken of in the last issue of the C. B. J. The cells do not contain the sopy matter as described in foul brood but the larvæ seems to shrivel, turn black and dry up.

I am under the impression that I have seen colonies affected in the same way before but not to such a large extent, and it soon disappeared.

A. G. WILLOWS.

Edmonton, Alberta, July 25th, 1888.

Will give you an account of how we are succeeding with our bees since their arrival. Although but a small quantity of bees were alive and scarcely any stores left, they commenced working vigorously. There was a great deal of wet weather the first two weeks after they arrived accompanied with very high wind. They succeeded to gather sufficient to start breeding and some surplus. At the end of five weeks they had their hive filled (bottom story) and obliged us to add upper story in which they are now working with a will. The willow and poplar were all past bloom before they reached here. But Saskatoon, Choke-Cherry, Cranberry and some of the prairie flowers have furnished an abundance of honey and pollen for them so far. There seems to be an endless amount of pasture for them without any of the varieties sown for such purposes. We have White Clover and Buckwheat just now com-

ing into bloom. Would say that in all our experience never saw bees do better or make such rapid progress as ours have, or so very easily handled as these are. Neither in Ontario, Michigan or British Columbia; they seem to court attention. They now are very strong and are not making any queen cells, but are full of worker brood. Am perfectly satisfied that they will be a great success here, if in the hands of competent persons; but would be a failure if not rightly managed on arrival, as the distance and mode of transit is very hard on them. Roses have been abundant but the great crop of prairie flowers have not yet put in an appearance. Shall not attempt to take off a swarm this year unless they breed up very strong on the buckwheat. Will keep as strong as possibly can for the winter, as we are not so sanguine of wintering successfully, but will try our best on that score, as that is the only drawback here to successful bee-keeping, we feel quite sure. We send you all the information we can in regard to bees at present, and you can make any use of it you see fit for the interest of your business. I think that more will try bees in this part as many seem much interested.

Will recommend your firm to all inquirers, and now the ice is broken and some safely through the business of shipping here, should not be an experiment. Your hive for shipping we think is all that can be desired and also your style of shipping except that the air space was too large and caused the brood to chill. This is only our opinion from those we have received. They were too much exercised in the day time by having so much light and air and consumed more food than they would have done with less light.

We try to keep posted on the kind of plants the bees work on, and also the effect the temperature has on them and all that is of interest to the Apiarist and if you wish will send you our experience and observations occasionally, but do not wish to crowd our opinion on you.

J. KNOWLES.

St. Marys, July 25th, 1888.

H. L. Leach formerly of Penetanguishine, now of Vasey, bought honey of us on Oct. 9th, 1886 to the amount of \$49 85. Also, owes me ballance on account of honey bought on June

17th, 1886 to the amount of \$12.70.— Total amount due \$62.55 less \$20, received in Nov., 1887; and \$15 received on March 7th, 1888. Amount now due \$27 55. Now when I have written to him asking payment he does not even answer me.

Our bees have not done very well so far this season, they have gathered very little honey and have not swarmed very much. Clover blossoms plentiful, but the weather was so dry and nights so cold I don't think there was very much honey secreted. We had quite an adventure with a swarm of bees to-day. They swarmed out on Sunday and went back, and did the same on Monday, on Tuesday they swarmed about 8.30 a. m., we hived them, they stayed for about an hour and came out and clustered in a tree. We hived them in a fresh place putting a comb of un-celled brood and eggs into the hive. They appeared to have settled down to work but to-day at noon they came rushing out of the hive and we threw water on them but we could not stop them, they crossed the mill-race and the river and through some woods, but they flew very slowly so that we could easily keep up with them, finally they settled on the limb of a basswood tree about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from home, we shook them into a swarming basket and brought them home. I hope they will stay, if they start off again I think we will let them go. You said something about bees going to do well if it was warm. What will they work on after this, the Linden is almost over?

Yours,

LIZZIE G. STENNETT.

Bees will work on thistle. Probably the hive was not well enough ventilated and too warm.—Ed.

Cambellford, July 20th, 1888.

Dear Sir :

In answer to your card enquiring how my bees have been doing since I last wrote to you. Until the last two or three days they have hardly made a living but we had a little rain on Wednesday and overcast weather since, which has caused the best honey flow there has been since dandelions, but I fear it will soon be over as basswood will soon be past.

It has been a most discouraging season and

unless we have a good supply of rain very soon I fear there is a poor outlook for next year too, as there would be no clover.

For some time my bees seemed to live on water to judge by the numbers drinking at a small stream which runs from a never failing spring not far from my bee yard.

I have some good long rows of *Melipa* which will soon be in bloom. The plants have stood the drouth well but would most likely have been much larger if there had been a proper amount of rain. I am sure we have not had one inch of rain since the 1st of May. The ore beds north of us attract most of the storms away from this locality. I never saw anything stand the drouth like the plant of which I sent you a few seeds last year. It grows in the grass on the driest kind of a gravel bank and looks as fresh as if it waa rained on every day. The plants stood out and get larger every year. A few days ago I counted 140 blossoms on the two oldest plants which grow near together, I never look at it early or late or in the middle of the day but there are several bees at work on it beside wild bees innumerable. One day I counted 6 tame bees on one blossom so I think it must be a good honey plant for a dry place.

H. F. BULLER.

Angelica, N. Y., Aug. 4th, 1888.

Dear Sir :

I am very sorry to have to report "No honey!" this year; but again that is about the size of the "crop." Basswood, White Clover, Buckwheat and *Weeds* are a *blooming* failure. Don't expect to average 5 lbs. per colony.

Well, 'rah for next year—this can't last always!

Hold on to your bees.

Yours fraternally, &c.,

WILL M. BARNUM.

P. S.—If you hear of anybody that's got lots of sugar for sale, just let me know!

Renfrew, May 22nd, 1888.

I put away five hives for the winter, three old hives (2 of which were in saw dust hives) and two second swarms, these and the old one in a single walled hive. I weighed and considered that they had not more than from ten to thirteen pounds each, all but the saw

dust hives, I could have no idea what they had. I did feed a little in the fall, but very little, having made up my mind to try your candy during the winter, which I did. I began on the 11th of February to give some. About the first of April I began to feed sugar syrup as well to all except the saw dust ones.

P. S.—The weather has been very backward this spring, I think it is not likely that we will get any May swarms. It is very warm this afternoon and yesterday was a very good day for the bees.

R. DRYSDALE.

August 18th, 1888.

The honey crop is very poor, fall will be good by the appearance now. I have about 1000 lbs. extracted, not much comb that will be No. 1, but will have quite a lot part dark, and some dark extracted. I only had ten swarms, but my bees are now in grand shape for the fall flow. White clover all dried out, linden did not last long.

JOHN L. GROVLAN.

Brood Combs—Some Practical Points By Dr. C. C. Miller.

THICKNESS OF WORKER-COMB.

How thick is it? I have been very unfortunate in my search, or else the books are very silent upon this point. Dzierzon, in his book, calls it about an inch in thickness, and Prof. Cook in his Manual, says, "The depth of the Worker-cells is a little less than half an inch." I think in general it is considered about $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch. I measured an empty comb, in which probably not more than two or three generations of brood had been raised, and it measured just $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch, as near as I could tell with a common rule. Then I measured one, black with many years service, and it measured a full inch in thickness. In the first case the division wall was a very thin affair; but in the old comb it was an eighth of an inch in thickness, the additional thickness being made up of successive layers left by the many generations of brood.

This difference in thickness, along with some other things, makes me think it possibly worth while to reconsider the question.

AT WHAT AGE SHOULD BROOD-COMBS BE RENEWED.

I had laid this upon the shelf a settled

question, saying that I had used combs 25 years old, and could see no difference between bees raised in them and bees raised in new combs. But if, in the course of years, a lining is left in the cells sufficient to increase the division wall an eighth of an inch, may there not have been a difference in the size of bees raised that would have been noticed by a more careful observer? Not long ago a writer in *The Ladies' Home Journal* advised, if I remember rightly, that brood-combs more than two years old should be renewed. Undoubtedly that is rather wild advice; but in the *British Bee Journal* for Nov. 10, 1887, (and the *B. B. J.* is not addicted to giving wild advice,) occurs the following: "We may fairly suppose that three batches of brood are hatched from the same cells—taking the brood nest only—in every season. In five years, therefore, we shall have fifteen layers of exuvæ in these cells, provided they are not removed by the bees, which experience seems to prove they have not. The brood cells, consequently, are much reduced in size. at this age, and the bees reared will be small in size.

We have used the same combs for fifteen years, without a break, when the brood cells became so diminutive that the bees hatched therefrom were a pigmy race, and the combs were as black as Krebus, and pollen-clogged. This was before the days of foundation. With our present advantages we do not think it profitable to use combs longer than four or five years." Dzierzon, in his book, page 28, says, "The more frequently a comb has been used for breeding, the darker will be its color and the thicker the walls of the cells, the latter becoming more and more narrow, and less and less fit for use, so that in time it becomes necessary for the combs to be renewed, although in case of need the bees themselves partly remove the casings, or even pull down the cells entirely."—*Bee Culture*.

(To be continued next month.)

Eastern Township Agricultural Association.

The above holds its 4th Exhibition at Sherbrooke, P. Q., on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Sept 4th, 5th, and 6th. Under Class 39, Sugar, honey, Bacon, &c., comes:

Sec. 4, Honey in the comb, not less than 10 lbs., \$2; \$1.

" 5, Honey extracted 1 gallon in clear jars, \$2; \$1.

" 6, Beeswax not less than 10 lbs., \$1; 50c.

Under Class 40, Dairy and Sugar Utensils, comes:

Sec. 10, Wax Extractor,—Diploma.

" 11, Honey,—Diploma.

" 12, Bee hive,—Diploma.

We should like to know if wax extractors, honey extractors or bee hives are dairy or sugar utensils, probably they are a kind of churn or patent butter mould or what? Would it not be much better to put in an extra class, and leave these out here and make Class 41 and Bee-Keepers' supplies, and we sincerely trust next year this will be done. We believe the above exhibition is a good one and well attended.—Ed.

Quarterly Meeting Brant Bee-Keepers' Association.

The above association met at the Court House, Brantford, on Saturday the 11th Aug., 1888. The meeting proved to be an unusually good one and several ladies were present, amongst them Mrs. Phelps, Mt. Pleasant, Mrs. Birkett, Mohawk, Mrs. McAlister, Mohawk.

Owing to the absence of the President Mr. T. Birkett was unanimously chosen as chairman. C. McNally, Simcoe was asked to give a report of the seasons work in the apiary.

Mr. McNally said apple bloom was very fair but clover being scarce and linden yielding but little he had trouble in keeping some colonies from starving during the time that the honey season should have been at its height. Bees were doing pretty well on buckwheat, one colony had stored in an 8 frame Langstroth super about 30 lbs. in one and one half day. He had nearly doubled his bees.

J. R. Howell, Brantford, gave his report about the same as Mr. McNally, he said however that there was a pretty good yield of alsike clover by him but the bees appeared to do nothing on it, linden yielded some but not much. Just about the close of linden, the Chapman honey plant came in blossom and the bees had worked early and late on

this. He exhibited a plant and had in a jar for sampling some honey which he supposed came largely from this source. His increase was 50 per cent.

R. F. Holtermann gave his report. The yield to close of linden had been about 5 lbs. per colony, leaving the lower story untouched. Since that bees had done fairly on clover and thistle, giving a surplus of about 20 lbs. per colony, besides the queen rearing he had done. His bees had also worked well on the Chapman Honey Plant, some remaining out on it all night, increase about 8 per cent.

T. Birkett reported that his bees had done very little until the last two weeks. He had not weighed his honey but would estimate it at about 20 lbs. per colony besides a quantity of comb honey, increase about 30 per cent.

They had put many swarms together and he found these were the ones which gave him the surplus, some had done much better than others.

J. R. Howell asked what made the great difference in the results obtained by colonies.

Mr. McNally said he thought too many went in for a nice color in breeding, he found that the best looking bees gave him the poorest results often.

Mr. Birkett reported that Mr. Tenneut's bees of Richwood, had done very little.

C. McAlister, Mohawk, reported he had put 20 colonies into winter quarters in the fall of 1887, a number very light having increased from eight. He brought through winter 19, four of these perished from spring dwindling, the 15 had done very little until lately, he had three swarms.

W. Phelps, Mt. Pleasant, asked does it pay to feed for winter.

Mr. McNally, Simcoe, said he fed 64 colonies one fall, sugar worth \$125.00 wholesale. If one fed, it should be done early.

The Secretary stated he did not want to feed if he could possibly help it. He left towards the last of the season two combs of honey in each super, so as to be sure not to have to feed, he had fed a good deal and found by actual weight that the hive gained in weight about 10 lbs. for every 17 lbs. fed. The best results could be obtained by feeding quickly and never giving the bees a chance to stop storing the food until sufficient had been given, this was very important. Now if bees had not enough honey in their combs

he would hardly like to go so far as to say, do not feed sugar syrup. Honey was apt to granulate, the bees were more apt to rob if fed honey and then was the danger of imparting foul brood, especially if honey had to be purchased.

Mr. McNally said he often fed honey back and it did not granulate. In reply to a question, however he admitted that his cellar was an especially good one.

The question was asked, are many using queen excluders? Most members used them and liked them.

Mr. Howell said he found trouble in the queen going through the metal, he had no bee space on each side of the metal.

Mr. Holtermann said in order to secure the best results from queen excluders there must be a bee space on each side of the board.

C. Culyer, Bloomsburg, said he liked the honey board and in order to keep the queen from going through, a bee space should be allowed on each side of the board also, in order to obtain the best results otherwise.

Mr. Holtermann stated that a queen would occasionally be found which would go through the metal.

Do we require feeders was asked? The general impression appeared to be that vessels could be placed in an empty super to answer, straw floats being thrown into the syrup to keep the bees from drowning.

Mr. Howell was elected to look after the bee department at the coming Brant Show.

It was then moved by R. F. Holtermann and seconded by J. R. Howell, that the North American Bee-Keepers' Association be invited to have their meeting in 1889, at Brantford, the Brant Bee-Keepers' Association promising them a free hall to meet in and reduced hotel rates and the members promising to spare no efforts to make the meeting a pleasant and profitable one. During the meeting the president; Mr. Anguish, entered and relieved Mr. Birkett of his duties as chairman. The next meeting will be held in December next.

The Royal Agricultural Society's Show.

In the Bee department, the bee tent had during the earlier days of the week, a very good attendance of attentive listeners, and very many questions were asked by the

anxious to be instructed on some particular points in connexion with bee-keeping, which were answered in a very ready and pleasant way by Mr. John Howard, of the Model Apiary, Holme, near Peterborough, the expert appointed by the E. B. K. A for the season. Mr. Howard was able to show that the ordinary routine work of the bee tent, driving, catching the queen, and returning the bees to the hive with their queen and so forth, could be supplemented in a variety of ways with bees in frame hives. Much useful instruction was given and was fully appreciated, all seeming gratified with what they had seen and heard. The uses and advantages were practically illustrated in a way we have never before seen in a bee tent.

After one of the lectures, a clergyman present proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer; he said he knew nothing of the lecturer, that he was a perfect stranger to him, and that he had never seen him before; he said the lecture was most interesting and had been given in such an instructive and pleasant way, that he felt sure all would join with him in heartily thanking the lecturer; which they did with a hearty cheer.

On Thursday the bee-tent was a source of attraction; it was absolutely besieged, the tent frequently had to have its ropes, pegs, &c., adjusted, the pressure of the people anxious to see was so great. The operating portion in the centre was taken by storm, and filled with people who, seeing the expert could handle the bees with apparent impunity, gained confidence and pressed into the enclosure as thick as they could stand, thoroughly enjoying it; and although the bees were flying around and settling on them, few, if any, were stung. There appeared to be many country people, apparently Bee-keepers, anxious to learn something of the modern way of keeping bees.

One remark of Mr. Howard's is worthy of attention. In answer to a question as to foreign races of bees, he said *he preferred the English bees to any*: he had some time ago spent 15*l.* in the purchase of the foreign races to stock his apiary, and that he considered he had thrown his money away, and gave the reasons that caused him to form that opinion.

Sufficient has, we think, been said to show that Mr. Raitt's remarks in the *Record* were

ill-timed. We believe there is much yet to be taught in the bee-tent by lectures of practical bee-masters; but it too often happens that lecturers are selected on account of their fluency of language, and not for their practical knowledge and experience; some manufacturers of bee-keeping appliances putting themselves into the position for the sake of grinding their own axes and selling their own wares.

The British Bee-keepers' Association having noticed in former years that in the class for the largest and best collection, &c., the competition was confined to two or three of the largest appliance manufacturers, and that the number of articles was swollen by many obsolete and useless things of little or no value, they therefore determined that they would specify such articles as they considered to be necessary in an apiary of any size, thinking that by limiting the number of articles to be exhibited, they would have a much greater number of competitors to exhibit, and that the smaller manufacturers would be able to compete with the larger ones on equal terms. The result has been most satisfactory, the number of entries having increased to ten.

The following is a schedule of the things to be included:—Class 184.—For the best collection of hives and appliances, to consist of the following articles (exhibits in this class to be staged by the exhibitor): 1 frame-hive, priced at 15*s.*; 1 ditto, priced at 10*s.* (*Note.*—These hives must be fitted with arrangements for storifying); 1 observatory hive, with bees and queen; hive of straw or other material for obtaining either comb or extracted honey; 1 pair of section-crates ready for putting on a hive; 1 extractor; 1 slow stimulating feeder; 1 rapid feeder; 1 smoker or other instrument for quieting bees; 2 boxes of comb foundation, containing 2 lbs. each, one thick the other thin; 1 veil; 1 swarm-box for travelling, capable of being used as a nucleus hive; 1 travelling crate for comb honey; collection of honey bottles, different varieties, not exceeding six in number. Each article to be priced separately.

Messrs. Geo. Neighbour & Sons obtained the first prize, a silver medal and 20*s.*; Mr. John H. Howard the second, a bronze medal and 10*s.*; and Mr. Thos. Blow was Highly Commended.

One of the objects the Committee had in view in limiting the articles in this class to useful things only was to some extent frustrated, for immediately after the awards were made, a large quantity of additional things were crowded on between the others, so that visitors could not tell that prizes had not been given for the whole, and turning of this into a sale-counter. We hope that this useful class will be continued another year, and that nothing will be allowed to be added to it after the award of the judges. Those who want a sale-counter should apply for space for the same, and pay for it in the regular way.

Class 185.—For the best and most complete frame-hive for general use. The hive shall consist of (1) a floor-board on four short legs; two chambers or body-boxes, equal in size, similar and interchangeable, both to have porches, with entrances capable of contraction or expansion, each chamber being capable of holding a set of ten or more standard frames, having strips of foundation fixed and two division-boards, but one set of frames and two division-boards only to be supplied. (2.) One case of $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $4\frac{1}{2}$ sections, with foundation fixed and separators, the case to be of such size as to admit of one chamber being used as a cover. (3.) A substantial roof sufficiently deep to cover a case of sections and afford ample protection to the whole hive, the price of each part, namely, stand and floor-board, body-box, case of sections, and roof, to be given separately, the whole not to exceed 15s., unpainted.

This is the most important class of all, and there is always a very keen competition for the honours, and the ingenuity and skill of the manufacturers of hives are exerted to the utmost. At one time 15s. for a hive of this description would have been thought much too little, but there were fifteen competitors from ten different counties, all having exhibits, with hardly an exception, of considerable merit. With machinery and skilled training it is astonishing what can be done for this amount.—*British Bee Journal*.

Queries for September.

No. 46. My colonies require feeding. I have honey to feed back—shall I do this, or feed sugar syrup.

Feed the honey.—L. C. Root, Stamford, Ct.

Feed honey.—A. D. Allen, Tamworth, Ont.

Which ever is most profitable in your place, depending on prices of sugar and honey.—C. C. Miller, Maringo, Ills.

Feed sugar syrup.—Dr. A. B. Mason, Auburndale, Ohio.

Feed the honey.—W. Couse, Streetsville, Ont.

Either will do, I generally feed sugar.—F. Malcolm, Innerkip, Ont.

Give them the honey if not greatly above the cost of sugar.—D. P. Niven, Dromore, Ont.

Feed honey as long as you have got it. Sugar feeding ought not to be resorted to except as the last chance to save the bees. It is ruining the bee business because the practice is casting suspicion on the purity of the honey of commerce.—G. W. Demaree, Christianburg, K'y.

Feed sugar syrup, I have fed honey back directly after it was extracted, it granulated and the bees starved to death on it.—Ira Orvis, Whitby, Ont.

Feed Sugar syrup for winter.—A. G. Willows, Carlingford, Ont.

Feed honey and sugar mixed by melting together.—John Yoder, Springfield P. O.

Granulated sugar syrup is a safer feed, yet good honey will answer well. The relative price of honey and sugar is also to be considered.—Prof. A. J. Cook, Agricultural College, Mich.

Feed honey by all means, only mixing enough sugar syrup with it to prevent it from granulating in the combs in cold weather.—Henrietta F. Buller, Campbellford, Ont.

If the honey is pure and nice, feed it back, unless you can feed sugar syrup more cheaply. Either will prove safe, and the question of economy is all there is to be considered. If the honey is quite thick, add a very small quantity of water if fed early enough so that it will surely be sealed up.—J. E. Pond, North Attleboro'.

I would feed the honey.—Will M. Barnum, Angelica, N. Y.

A difficult position especially for the one replying to the query. You should avoid feeding back by reserving combs of honey taken from the supers. We would not feed back honey, it is expensive, bees are more apt to rob, and the honey is liable to granulate.—Ed.

No. 47. Shall I remove the propolized quilt, or leave it glued on in natural way? I winter on summer stands.

I am not sure that it makes much difference, if your bees are properly covered and the entrance large, but then I winter in cellar, so am not good authority.—C. C. Miller.

Leave it glued on.—L. C. Root.

Oh what a question! do as you are a mind to about it. That is the way I would do.—Dr. A. B. Mason.

Leave it on.—A. D. Allen.

Put new quilt on.—W. Couse.

I always leave it on and winter in cellar.—F. Malcolm.

If not altogether air tight with propolis, leave it on.—D. P. Niven.

No, leave them as they are.—G. W. Demaree.

I winter in the cellar.—Ira Orvis.

Remove it.—A. G. Willows.

I prefer putting on a clean quilt.—John Yoder.

Theory says, remove. Practice says, leave it where it is.—Prof. A. J. Cook.

It is best to leave the propolized quilt over $\frac{2}{3}$ of the top of hive. Turn it back one third at the back of the hive to allow the moisture to escape. Put a wadded quilt made of coarse canvas and wool or cotton batting over the whole top and saw dust to a thickness of four inches at least over all.—Henrietta F. Buller.

If the quilt is so much propolized that it will not allow dampness to pass through freely, remove it and use a clean one. Press it down on edges so that no light will show through, fill top of hive with forest leaves pressed loosely down on quilt, giving ample ventilation at entrance.—J. E. Pond.

If you, (as you should,) use a "Hills device," it is quite evident that the "quilt" would have to be removed while you were putting the device on. It makes but little difference whether the quilt is glued on or not.—Will M. Barnum.

If you winter on summer stands, remove it *every time*, placing above sufficient packing to keep in the warmth.—Ed.

No. 48. Shall I remove the propolized quilt, or leave it glued on in natural way? I winter in a cellar; temperature from 35° to 43°.

Leave it glued on.—C. C. Miller.

Leave it as it is.—L. C. Root.

See answer to 47.—A. B. Mason.

Leave it on.—A. D. Allen.

Put new quilt on.—W. Couse.

From 35 to 43 is too low a temperature. If kept at 50 it matters little what is kept on top.—F. Malcolm.

I lift it and put a fresh quilt below if air tight.—D. P. Niven.

Yes, I think it is best to have clean quilts for cellar wintering.—G. W. Demaree.

I use thin boards on top, some are tight and some are not. I do not see any difference.—Ira Orvis.

Remove it.—A. G. Willows.

I prefer putting on a clean quilt.—John Yoder.

Leave it alone.—Prof A. J. Cook.

With a temperature from 35 to 43 which I consider better than a higher temperature I would remove the propolized quilt as there is then no danger of the hives becoming damp inside. Put a quilt made of coarse canvas and cotton batting over a thin factory cotton one.—Henrietta F. Buller.

See answer to 47. In the matter of upward ventilation the same rule should be observed in wintering inside that is followed in wintering on summer stands. My experience teaches me that excess of moisture is the great cause of winter losses.—J. E. Pond.

See answer to Query No. 47.—W. M. Barnum.

Your temperature we are inclined to think is too low unless the cellar is very dry, would not like to see it below 40° Far. If temperature inclines to be low remove old quilt and put a fresh one on with a cushion above, if higher leave the old quilt, moisture will pass off at the entrance.—Ed.

QUERIES FOR OCTOBER.

No. 49. Do different kinds of stores, such as clover, basswood, and thistle honey all in one hive, influence bees in wintering? or, is one kind of honey better?

No. 50. Does it require more experience to raise comb honey than extracted honey? Why?

No. 51. Which is best for packing over bees in cushions, cork dust, chaff, wool, saw dust, or straw? Name in order of preference.

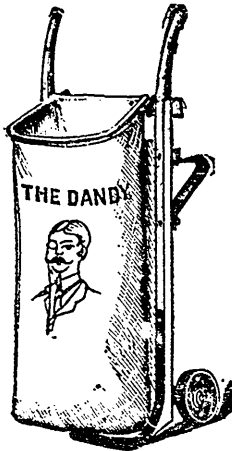
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FEEDING BACK.

There was probably never before gathered together so much reliable information upon the above subject as is to be found in

THE BEE-KEEPERS' REVIEW for July. If you have, or expect to have, unfinished sections, read this number. If you have failed to make a success of "feeding back," its perusal may show you where you make your mistake. The August issue will be a "Fair No."

Price of the *Review* 50 cts. a year Samples free. Back numbers can be furnished.

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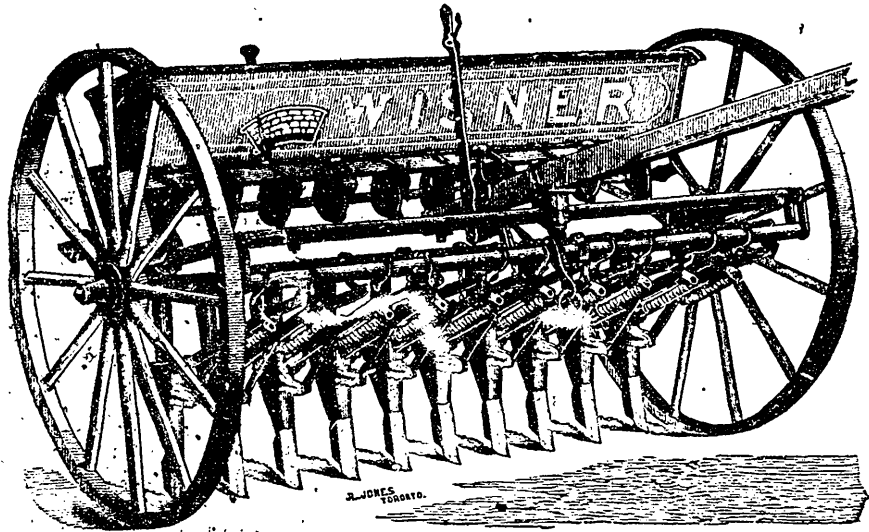
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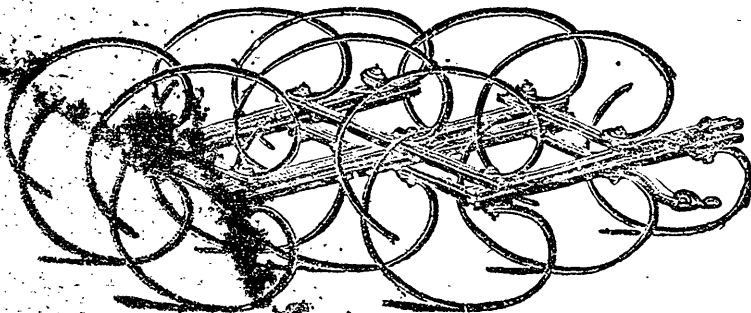
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