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The

Canadian Bee Journal

NEW SERIES
Vol. VII, No. 5.

BRANTFORD, ONT., NOV., 1899.

WHOLE NO
417

Conventions

The U. S. Bee-Keeper's Convention.

Possibilities and difficulties of Bee-Keeping in Cuba and Porto Rico, and the effect of our new relations With these islands on our Honey Market.—W. W. Somerford, Tex.

(Second Paper—Continued from Page 76)

Possibilities and difficulties—the subjects assigned myself and Mr. Craycraft and myself to discuss—are subjects that we both have had experience in, especially the difficulties. The main one encountered so far is a very serious difficulty, one that but few of Cuba's modern bee-keepers have escaped. So plentiful and so scattered is that terrible difficulty, that we have nearly all had a sight and a whiff of it. It is foul brood, scattered broadcast over the land, Cuba's fair and fertile land, the bee-keepers' paradise," except for foul brood.

The disease is one that some writers seem to think amounts to but little, yet I have known over \$200,000 worth of bees to be wrinkle out of existence from its ravages in Havana Province alone; and I know of hundreds of colonies on the road to sure and certain death, as we so far have escaped after contamination; and the afflicted ones have been hauled hither and thither until the question is with the knowing ones, where can I locate and be safe and set? Where, oh, where? The wise-tongued keeper on the island of Cuba would care to answer the question with any

certainly or assurance, for, if he did, he might "get left" as the most of us have. Yes, left without bees, with only infected hives and experience as future capital—and books (foul brood books) that tell all about how it can be cured so easily in the hands of the careful and studious; but, then, I have known men of culture, educated in the languages, graduates of our best universities, all to fail. Even common, practical men fail; men who have given the better part of their lives to bee-keeping fail. Fail when it comes to curing foul brood, where there is eternal sunshine and summer and big apiaries. All have failed so far in Cuba to cure the disease; and I consider it the only great "difficulty" that a bee-keeper has to contend with, or may have to encounter.

Mr. Craycraft wrote me a few days ago that the leading bee-keepers of the island had a move on foot, and were whooping it up, to establish a foul brood law, with an inspector to inspect and condemn all infected apiaries. The "leading bee-keepers," I will add, that are in the move, are the ones that foul brood has led out of the business. So the law, if passed, is sure to be effectual, as I understand one of their number is to be inspector, and will pass the death sentence where the disease is found. Then, Mr. Craycraft says, a bee-keeper can keep bees with a certainty of success, but not until then.

As to possibilities, they are great when it comes to bee-keeping and honey producing in Cuba. It will take time to tell the story as to what can be accomplished. I knew a bee-keeper to claim 40,000 pounds of fine white honey from 100 colonies in a single season, and I am sure better reports will come in the future

under our new relations, for Cuba is surely a honey country. I, myself, took, in 90 days, from an even 100 colonies, over 2,000 gallons of the finest honey I have ever seen. But where is that 100 colonies now? And still another 150 that I used to have in Cuba? All dead. Yes, dead. Doctored to death with foul brood cures—cures that would not cure in Cuba. But I will try it again. I will embark for Cuba in September, as big apiaries under sheds are fascinating to me—until contaminated with Cuba's contagious "difficulty," foul brood, or "bacillus alvei," as Prof. Cheshire, England's great scientist, called it.

As to Porto Rico, I have not been there yet, but my friends who have, say it is no such a honey country as Cuba; but, of course, it may be better; I do not know.

"The effect of our new relations with these islands on our honey market"—they will have but little, if any, effect for years to come, and if they do it will be to create a market for fine honey, in many places where none is produced, and but little consumed at present, as is the case in many parts of the South, where the quality of honey is bad, and the crop uncertain, and consumption amounts to nothing. In such places thousands of tons of Cuba's fine honey could find a market. But for European buyers, it is not likely that much honey will come into our American markets from Cuba, as her market is already established in Europe, and has been for more than a century.

The above paper was then discussed as follows:

Mr. Selser—I notice that the people who talk about the market do so to mock us.

Harry S. Howe—I am going to be down there soon and shall learn what there is to learn.

S. A. Niver—I, too, want to take issue with Mr. Selser. I have had little experience, and I have compared the honey-dew with good honey. Come to York State and see how we do things there.

Dr. Miller—Mr. Selser is nowhere when New York gets after him.

* * * *

Bee-Keeping as a Profession.

The next paper was read by Mr. W. Z. Hutchinson, of Michigan.

The time was when many industries were represented in one family. Flax and wool were grown, spun and worked up into cloth and made into clothing. Cows were kept, and cheese as well as

butter made for home use. Poultry and a few colonies of bees added to the comforts of the household. But there is no need of going into detail; every one knows how people lived 100 years ago. Cheap and rapid transportation has encouraged the invention of machinery, the building of factories, and the classification of labor. This has brought about a specialty. No one disputes that this condition of things is better; by it our comforts are more than trebled.

Some industries branched out as specialties much sooner than others. Bee-keeping was among the later ones. At last, however, it has been recognized as an industry of itself. How does it compare with other professions? What are its advantages and disadvantages? Can it be depended upon as a means of livelihood? These are questions that have come to all of us, and will continue to come to all who enter our ranks.

I believe it is well understood that bee-keeping is not an occupation in which we can easily become wealthy. In the very nature of things it cannot be otherwise. Like the keeping of poultry, the raising of small fruits, gardening, and other minor branches of agriculture, the keeping of bees in localities adapted to the business can be depended upon to furnish their owner a comfortable living; but such fortunes as are amassed in merchandising and manufacturing can never be hoped for by the bee-keeper.

Fortunately, however, the perfection of a man's happiness bears but little relation to the size of his fortune. Many a man with the hum of bees over his head, finds happiness sweeter and deeper than ever comes to the merchant prince with his cares and his thousands. Bee-keeping is an ennobling pursuit. It keeps a man close to Nature's heart. It brings out the best that is in him. But can it be depended upon, year after year, as a means of supporting one's family? In some localities it can; in others it cannot. Where there is only one source of honey and that an unreliable one, a man learns sooner or later, that he cannot depend upon bees alone.

If a man is to adopt bee-keeping as a profession he must choose a location possessing at least one unfailing source of honey, or else several sources, some of or more of which will be quite likely to furnish a crop.

Many who attempt bee-keeping as a specialty, are lacking in business method. They attempt too many make-shifts in the

wa. of hives, implements, buildings, and the like. To become a successful professional bee-keeper a man must first find a proper locality, as I have just explained, then he must secure the best stock procurable put up suitable buildings, wintering cellars, if necessary; have the best of hives and implements, and "keep a large number of colonies." I think many fail in this point. They keep only bees enough to bring in an income during a good year, or, possibly in an average year, and when one poor year follows another, two or three times in succession, want stares them in the face. Keep bees enough so that when there is a good year or two, enough money may be made to tide over the poor seasons that are sure to come. The very fact that the bees are scattered about in out-apiaries, several miles apart, adds to the certainty of a crop; as one locality often yields a fair crop while another a few miles away yields nothing.

With a man adapted to the business, a suitable locality, and the adoption of sound business methods, bee-keeping will compare favorably with other rural pursuits.

Believing that the mission of a paper is best fulfilled when it introduces the subject, rather than exhausts it, I bring mine to a close.

Mr. Doolittle—I don't like to see time run to waste, neither do I want to oppose anything that so intelligent a brain as Mr. Hutchinson's has brought forth. He told us how agriculture, in many branches, has ceased, and the masses are not happier. Mr. Hutchinson, I want to say this, and enforce it by telling a story. One of these long-faced brethren was riding one day, and came across a young man walking, and asked him to ride. Presently they entered a deep wood; he thought he was called upon to speak to the young man about his soul, so he asked him the question, "Are you prepared to die?" and the young man jumped out and ran away. Now I want to say to you, that anything that kills our happiness is wrong.

Mr. Hutchinson—What is your point, Mr. Doolittle?

Mr. Doolittle—The point is, that no people are happier than when working on a home. And this speculation that our people have gone into has spoiled our homes. A hungry dog cannot fight. You may run up a flag, but you cannot force people to respect it.

Mr. Hutchinson—When I first went to my present home, we kept a cow, had a

garden, etc., but the work in the garden came at the same time as the work in the apiary, so I laid by the cow and the garden.

Dr. Mason—Mr. Doolittle says a poor, hungry dog can't fight, so he must mean that the dog that is well fed and sleek can fight the best. Now, that is all right, and I agree with him. (Several—"If not too fat.") But what makes that dog poor? Is it not his own fault? In our locality (and you know localities differ), there are too many who have not the backbone, or the principle, to make use of the means at their command, to make home happy, and blame the more fortunate for their success.

W. E. Flower—This reminds me of a story of an Irishman. He and his wife quarrelled. She said to him, "Look at the dog and cat. Did you ever see anything more peaceable than that?" The husband paused and looked at the creatures, then said, "Jist tie them together tight, and, faith, I think then they'll fight." Taxes are so high I do not want a home. If I am going to spend all my income for taxes, I am better off without a home.

Dr. Miller—The question is a serious one. If a young man should ask me today if bee-keeping is a profession that pays, I would not dare to say it is as safe as a profession as it was 20 or 40 years ago. I think Mr. Hutchinson was very wise in putting it that way, that it is not a matter of dollars and cents. Perhaps I may rest and strengthen up while following this profession, I am a bee-keeper, and I find time to go fishing. We get our pleasure as we go along in our occupation. I am enjoying my bee-keeping. That is my vocation, and I believe I can enjoy it as a profession.

Rev. E. T. Abbott—You have gotten on my hobby. This talk about bee-keeping as a specialty all sounds very well, but I don't think there is a man in the room that makes his living out of bee-keeping. There is something else combined with it.

Mr. Doolittle—I do.

Rev. Abbott—Where is your farm?

Mr. Doolittle—Bees bought it.

Mr. Abbott—Do you have no income from the farm? Bee-keeping has only one mission in the United States, and that is to make the home happier and better. Mr. Hutchinson and I have to sell papers, and it is a fact that bee-keeping will not succeed as a profession in half a dozen States. But for broken down doctors, and preachers that never could preach, if

is a splendid thing. When we talk about a living, we would better keep still.

Mr. Doolittle—You will excuse a little personal story. I was brought up a farmer. My father thought so much of me that he wanted to keep me with him. If there is any young man present, let me say to you, don't be fool enough to do it. I bought my father off. I earned \$600 working out, for I saw that I could barely make a living from the farm. I bought some bee-papers; I was up in my loft and I overheard father talking to a neighbor, and father said, "I hoped Gilbert would be a farmer. I have even prayed that he would fail in bee-keeping." The bees have bought everything that I have. They bought my home, and Mr. Abbott cannot drop it out, for it is there.

An Attendant—I do not own a foot of land, but I have some bees. The gentleman said that the place to keep bees is on the farm.

Mr. Doolittle—There are some great facts before us, and it is well to understand them. In 1877, as a friend of mine and I went to New York with some honey I told him that we were getting some cheap rides at six cents per mile. As we went to Canada afterward, I said, cheap riding at two cents per mile. But how did you get your money? With honey at 9½ cents per pound; and I measured that I was paying six cents per mile in Canada, and I figured that I was paying nine cents per mile in 1877. The little a man got 20 years ago is two-thirds less now.

Dr. Miller—I want to ask you, Mr. Doolittle, if your bees have averaged as much in the last 10 years as in other years?

Mr. Doolittle—Yes. In the first year of my bee-keeping life I secured 66½ pounds of honey per colony. I don't know as I shall ever see it again. This year was a poor year, but my bees averaged 185 pounds per colony.

After a song by Mr. Haenle, which was encored, the convention adjourned until 9 a. m. the next day, Sept. 6.

(To be continued in our next.)

This poem is the production of Hon. Eugene Secar and has been set to music by Dr. C. C. Miller. Both words and music are published in connection with the official programme of the meeting of the United States Bee-Keepers' Association held in Philadelphia.

THE HUM OF THE BEES IN THE APPLE TREE BLOOM.

When memory pictures the scenes of my youth,
And the farm where my childhood was spent.

The panthom of happy and innocent days,
Like a balm to my spirit is lent;
There comes to my senses a solacing dream
Of the orchard's sweet budding perfume,
And I hear soothing strains in the trees
overhead—

'Tis the hum of the bees 'mong the bloom.

CHORUS.

O the hum of the bees,
O the hum of the bees!
'Tis a melody sweet to my soul;
For it brings back the past, and its
magical spell
O'er the care burdened present doth roll.

The curtain is lifted which separates me
From the hills of the charm'd long ago;
I stroll once again o'er the pastures and
fields,
And I run in the woods to and fro.

I lie in the meadow, the sweet-scented
grass
Vies with Araby's choicest perfume—
Above me the apple trees reach the blue
sky,
And the bees rollic free in the bloom.

CHO.—O the hum of the bees, etc.

In the May-time of life, when the spirit is
free,

O how near is the Heaven of rest!
It lieth just over the wall by the tree
Where the summer 'rist apples are best;
And there in the spring-time, with prom-
ise of fruit,

The white-sheeted tree lends perfume
To tempt the young bees with the nectar
from God

That's concealed in its life giving bloom.

CHO.—O the hum of the bees, etc.

The Philadelphia Convention.

The Progressive Bee-Keeper writes of the Philadelphia Convention:—"Some of the discussions were very spirited, but so far as I see, good nature prevailed throughout all. This was one of the very nice things about this particular convention. Bee keepers are quite apt to be "cranks," and to think that the way they see things is the only way that the thing can and ought to be done."

looked at, and in many another convention the writer has heard and seen angry words and looks, because some bee keeper could not see things in the light that another did. Such heat and passion only mar the good that comes from bee-keepers meeting together, and while I would not say that the millennium has now dawned on the bee-keeping world, yet I am free to admit that a little portion of something akin to what the millennium may be come near to the Franklin Institute and the bee-keepers associated there in the early part of September, 1899 "

[This is the way things should be. Can't we have a similar report to make after our meeting in Toronto? There is no reason why we should not.—(Ed

Fall Fairs.

Haldimand, Ont.

The Haldimand County Fair was held at Cayuga, on Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 9th and 10th last. The weather was fine and a large crowd attended and witnessed one of the most attractive programmes ever carried out at a fair west of Toronto.

The prizes in the Honey Department were distributed as follows:—Display of Extracted Honey, not less than 50 lbs, R. Coverdale, J. H. Nauman. Display of Extracted Honey, not less than 10 lbs, R. Coverdale, J. H. Nauman. Display of Beeswax, R. Coverdale.

Forest, Ont.

The following is the list of prize winners in the honey department at the fall fair held here a few weeks ago:—Honey in comb, E. A. Jones; honey in sections, Jacob Moore, E. A. Jones; honey extracted, J. B. Hobbs, W. H. Stuart, E. A. Jones; jar honey, E. A. Jones; bees wax, W. H. Stuart, J. Kimbell.

Almonte, Ont.

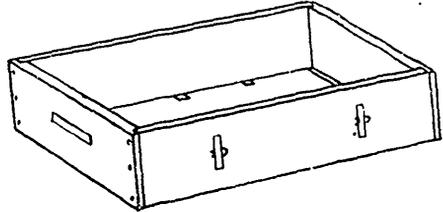
In the Honey Department at the North Anark fair held here, we note the prize list as follows:—Display of honey and apiary appliances, J. K. Darling, John Dunlop; extracted honey, J. K. Darling, John Dunlop; strained honey, J. K. Darling; honey in comb, John Dunlop; bees wax, J. K. Darling, John Dunlop; honey vinegar, J. K. Darling.

Inventions.

Adjusted System Wedge.

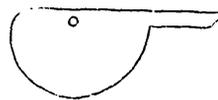
Editor of the Canadian Bee Journal.

DEAR SIR—At the Toronto Fair this year I showed two inventions which should interest most bee-keepers. One is a contrivance for tightening up sections in a super, to prevent the bees darning the edges with propolis. It is simply a cam or eccentric, working through a slot in the side of the super, being pivoted on the outside, and bearing against a cleat on the outer separator or follower. In our new super, (Fig 1.), we use two cams



(Fig 1.)

on a side, placed so as to equalize the pressure. Two vertical slots, about two inches long by half an inch wide, are made by boring a few holes in a line and smoothing the side with a chisel. The cams, (Fig 2) are cut from half-inch



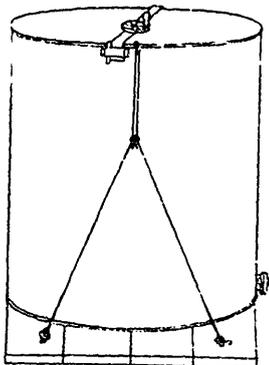
(Fig. 2.)

hardwood lumber with a bandsaw, leaving a part projecting for a handle. A small hole is bored in each, through which passes a short piece of heavy steel wire, which also passes through a small wire staple on each side of the slot. To make the hole air tight and prevent the bees sticking the cam fast with propolis, a piece of painted cotton is tacked over the

slot, inside the super; and with a little vaseline on the edge of the cam to make it work freely, it is complete. The principal advantage of this compressor is the quickness with which it can be operated; when the sections and separators are in place a single movement of the cam locks them fast, and to empty the super is just as easy. It should be as cheap as or cheaper than wooden thumb screws and is almost as simple.

The other invention is a child of necessity.

Our honey extractor had an exasperating habit of dancing about on its stand whenever the combs in it were not well balanced. Into the stand (see Fig. 3) I



(Fig. 3.)

drove four large screws about half their length, two on each side of the extractor about fourteen inches apart; two pieces of steel wire were then bent to form double hooks and these were hung on the top edge of the extractor, on opposite sides. One end of a piece of strong cord was tied to one of the screws, the cord was passed up through the hook down to the other screw on the same side and tied to it. A short piece of the cord was then tied round the double part just below the hook. A similar arrangement of cord was made on the other side and the short pieces were slid down the double cords as far as they would go. To release the extractor we simply slip the short pieces of cord upward, this gives enough slack to let us remove the hooks from the can. We have had no more trouble with the extractor shaking, and can recommend the contrivance as being practical, easily applied and costing next to nothing.

Yours truly,

H. R. SMITH.

St. Thomas. Oct. 16, 1899.

The writer of the above is a son of Mr. R. E. Smith, St. Thomas, well-known among the bee-keeping fraternity. We welcome him to our pages. Young Mr. Smith is evidently of an inventive turn of mind and believes thoroughly in the easiest way of doing things. The illustrations show two simple yet valuable contrivances which received first and fourth prizes at the Industrial Exhibition, Toronto.—[Ed.]

The Secret of Success.

Here is the secret of success done up in a small parcel:—Look most to your spending. No matter what comes in, if more goes out you will be poor always. The art does not consist in making money, but in keeping it. Little expenses, like mice in a barn, when they are many, make great waste. Hair by hair the head gets bald; straw by straw the thatch comes off the cottage; drop by drop rain comes into the room. In all things keep within compass. In clothes choose suitable and lasting stuff, and no tawdy fineries. To be warm is the main thing; never stretch your legs further than the blanket will reach or you will soon be cold.

PERSONALS.

Mr. R. H. Smith, St. Thomas, dropped in to see us when in town a few weeks ago. Mr. Smith was judge in the honey department at the Southern Fair here.

Mr. F. L. Thompson has withdrawn from the editorship of the *Western Beekeeper*. In future the paper will be edited and managed by C. H. Gordon, Denver, Col.

We had a visit from Mr. Jas. Armstrong, Cheapside, recently. While lamenting the "badness" of the season, Mr. Armstrong, is not like some—utterly discouraged—right brother Armstrong our old school adage comes in at such a time as this. "Try, try, try again."

Destroying Ants.

Make holes with a crowbar or convenient stick from six inches to one foot deep and about fifteen inches apart over the hill or lawn infested by the ants, and into each hole pour two or three teaspoonful of bisulphide of carbon, stamping the dirt into the hole as soon as the liquid is poured into it.

From Many Sources

Bees and Horticulture.

Extract from a paper by J. M. Hambaugh, read before the San Diego Co., Horticultural society at Escondido, Cal.

But few problems have caused more disarrangement and been, by some, more difficult to solve, than the proper relations which the bees sustain to horticulture. Some fruit growers seem to think that the honey bee are detrimental to fruit, while others contend that they are not only a benefit to growing fruit, but are essential to its full development and general prosperity.

Lately some of our most progressive fruit growers have come out squarely on the side of the bees. Mr. Charles A. Green, editor of the Fruit Grower, published in Rochester, N. Y., after mentioning the experiments made by Professor Waite of the agricultural department at Washington, which conclusively proved that to many kinds of fruit trees the bees are absolutely necessary for fertilization, remarks thus; "The fruit growers of the country are greatly indebted to Professor Waite for the discovery he has made. The lesson is that the fruit growers must become interested in bees, and I do not doubt that within a few years it will be a rare thing to find a fruit grower who does not keep honey bees, the prime object being to employ the bees in carrying pollen from one blossom to another, from the fields of small fruits, as well as the larger fruits.

The great Creator in his infinite wisdom created male and female, not in the animal kingdom alone, but in the vegetable kingdom as well; and in the pro-creative power that another earth might be replenished and amply provided with the seeds of man, He has adopted means and agencies in the realm of animal life to more effectually and perfectly convey the agencies of plant life to the pro-creative sexes.

Most of you are acquainted with the elements of botany and know the structure of flowers. The reproductive functions consist of stamens and pistils, male

and female organs. The pollen or fertilizing dust, is produced by the stamens, and must reach the pistil or the blossom is barren. It is also essential that there should be some intermingling or cross-breeding between the different flowers of one plant or tree, and also between the different blossoms of several trees of the same kind, for in many cases barrenness would follow a too close in and in breeding.

It is here that the wondrous wisdom of the Infinite Being is displayed. A tempting feast is prepared in the shining goblet of each tiny bloom, and the honey-gathering insects lured by the tempting feast as they flit from bloom to bloom and scatter the fertilizing dust from the stamens to the pistils, and nature, mode of fertilization is complete. The king of all insects in this wondrous work is the honey bee, which was evidently the prime object of its creation, and its gathering and storage of honey secondary in importance. It then becomes a question of momentous consideration that all should know that the bees are valuable to the fruit grower and apiarist alike, and that the pomologist who poisons or otherwise destroys the bees, is surely killing the goose that lays the golden egg.—American Bee Keeper.

BEEES IN THE ORCHARD

—By HERBERT J. RUNSEY, Boronia, Barber's Creek, N. S. W.

No orchard is complete without a few swarms of bees. The fallacy of bees being injurious to fruit is nearly exploded, and it is generally admitted that they will not, because they cannot pierce the skin of fruit to obtain the juices, although if it is punctured by other insects they will be all there for a share of the spoils. The sexual arrangements of most fruits are said to be such that the pollen from another tree of the same class is much more likely to set healthy fruit than that from the same tree. In fact it is said that the Bartlett Pear is not self-fertile, large orchards having been planted which would not bear fruit even when masses of flowers were present, until other varieties of pears were planted among them for pollination, after which the trouble was at an end. Although many trees were present in these cases, they were as one, having all been produced by budding or grafting from one original tree, and not by seed. Such being the case then, we require to have facilities for carrying the pollen from one tree to

another. To a certain extent the wind does this, but not so effectually as insects do, and of these the honey bee is one of the best we know of, travelling as it does from flower to flower in search of nectar. If we notice the structure of some flowers we see that they are so arranged that the bees cannot reach the honey without rubbing off some of the pollen it has got on its back from the last flower of that specie it visited, for bees when working generally stick to one job, travelling from flower to flower of the same variety. These facts alone should induce orchardists to keep a few bees. There are few fruitgrowers' families that do not appreciate a bit of nice fresh honey, and there are very few localities that will not enable one or two hives to gather a few pounds of surplus.—*Australian Agriculturist.*

BEE-KEEPING IN IRELAND

PRINCE CHRISTIAN VICTOR AND IRISH INDUSTRIES.

To the Editor of the Irish Times:—

SIR,—An association for the promotion of bee-culture has been lately formed in this locality under the auspices of the noble house of Bessborough, who are very anxious to develop cottage industries.

At the Iverk Farming Society Show held at Bessborough Park on the 5th inst., there was an exhibition of honey. The bee tent was visited by His Highness Prince Christian Victor, among others who were of the house party at Bessborough. He was greatly pleased, and expressed a desire to purchase honey from each exhibitor.

I mentioned his wish to them, and as Irishmenlike, they all desired to present His Highness with samples of their honey, and at their request the following letter was sent along with their gift:—

“Piltown, Sept. 6, 1899.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HIGHNESS:—We, as members of the Iverk Bee-Keeper's Association, are delighted to see the grandson of our Queen among us, we offer you a real Irish “Cead mille failthe,” and hope you will soon again repeat your visit.

Will you do us the honor of accepting a few samples of our honey, which we tender to your Highness with expression of a sincere and loyal welcome.—Signed, on behalf of the Iverk Bee-Keeper's Association, PETER WALSH, Hon. Sec.”

The following gracious reply was received:—

“Bessborough, Piltown, Ireland.

DEAR MR. WALSH,—I have to thank you again for your gift to me of some of your own honey, and may I ask you to convey my thanks to your Association for also sending me some samples of their honey.

It has been a great pleasure to me to be able to visit this part of the country through the kindness of Lord and Lady Duncannon, and I trust that if it be my good fortune to visit Bessborough again I shall find your Association in a still more flourishing condition.

I am sure bee-keeping is an industry well suited to cottage life, and I hope that through the help of your society it may take a firm hold in this neighborhood.

Pray accept once more my thanks for your own personal gift, as well as for that of the Association.—Yours truly,

CHRISTIAN VICTOR OF SCHLESWIG-

HOLSTEIN.”

As His Highness takes such a lively interest in Irish industries it is to be hoped that his anticipation will be fulfilled, and that the vast quantity of Irish honey which was heretofore going to waste will be utilized and that the British consumers will fully appreciate the difference between pure Irish honey and the spurious article that is imported under the name of honey.—Yours, &c., B WALSH.

Hon. Sec. Iverk Bee-keepers' Association, Fanningtown, Piltown.

September 9 1899.

The Australian Bee Journals are discussing the honey export question, the aim of the producers there being to secure a hold on the British market. Apparently they have the same difficulties to contend with as Canadians in getting a regular supply of first-class honey which does not vary much in flavor or quality. The Government of New South Wales through its Board of Exports is assisting to secure sample shipments. We take the following extract from the July issue of The Australian Bee Bulletin, being part of an address given by Mr. Albert Gale, President of the New South Wales Convention held June 28, to 30th, 1899:

“He remembered the time when only dozen or so of scientific bee-keepers were in the colony, and at the time of the holding of the first conference, the majority of the bee keepers kept bees that were unproductive. That was because they did not understand how to treat the

bees, or else they showed inattention to their work. That state of things has passed away to a certain extent. But they were not proficient yet, for it was only the other day that the Board of Exports advertised for 50 tons of honey for exportation, and was able to secure only 28 tons fit to export, and yet there was the cry among the bee-keepers, "What can we do with our honey?" No doubt there was an abundance of honey. No country in the wide world possessed such amount of flora suitable for honey production as that which grew in New South Wales, and no country had better advantages in all other respects. But the trouble was to separate the dark from the light honey. The former was unfit for exportation. They had only to know how to treat it and they would find that they had the best honey field in the world. The darkest of the honey should, he thought, be kept by the bee keepers for feeding purposes in the spring time of the year, instead of using so much sugar syrup. Nearly all the old countries that used to import honey, such as Germany and Russia, had fallen back in their supply. At the present time America was sending to the English markets hundreds of tons annually. New Zealand also exported a large quantity, and with the natural resources possessed by the bee-keepers of New South Wales, there was no reason why N. S. Wales should not take its place among the honey exporting countries of the world."

The Bee Bulletin says editorially,—
Honey, not fit to be classed No. 1 or 2, would be sent as "suitable for manufacturing purposes."

"After the Convention a number of bee-keepers visited the office of the Board of Exports, to see the samples of honey available for export. They numbered some forty, a good proportion of which were allotted either first or second grade. Some were very inferior, and a couple gave very decided indications of being glucosed. The tins in boxes were also inspected, the former being pronounced first-class, but a suggestion was made that the bottoms should be double blocked as well as the top. The boxes, Mr. Stephenson said, could be supplied at 8' per dozen.

"The Man About Town" in the St. Mary's Journal, tells the following story:—Speaking of honey, a bee is a well-meaning and poorly educated insect that needs the guiding hand of man to bring it

to perfection. The making of honey is a secondary consideration in the economy of bee life. The stuff which costs time and labor is the comb, which is manufactured into storage vaults, in which the honey is preserved in air-tight sealed packages, stamped and labeled with the trade mark of the queen bee who presides over the destinies of the colony. Different men have constructed machinery for the stamping of beeswax into crude imitation of genuine comb, and the bees have accepted this as a passable substitute for the real thing. A certain local bee fancier, however, tells me he is the first apiarist who has done away with beeswax in any form and satisfied the bees.

One day last June, after washing his buggy and sponging it off, he threw the sponge which was large and porous, into an empty bee-hive that was in his stable. Here it stayed until thoroughly dry. A swarm of bees coming out, he housed them in this hive without thinking to remove the sponge which had clung to a nail in the top board. Two weeks later he looked into his hive and found it was almost filled with nice, white, clover honey. As the swarm was not a large one, the great store was a surprise to the bee-fancier, who thought it would not be full till September. On closer observation he found that his bees had utilized the porous sponge as a store house for their honey, filling it cell by cell, and sealing it up as if the sponge was the very article that progressive bees had been seeking all their lives.

It was too late to continue the experiment, as all the bees had swarmed, but the apiarist will equip all of his new hives with sponge comb, and believes he has solved a problem that has mystified bee-keepers for years. Instead of compelling his bees to waste three-fourths of their time in chewing vegetable gum and making it into wax for cells, he will now furnish them with ready made comb, thus multiplying his honey output three or four times. When he wants some new honey he will remove a sponge, put it in a cider press, and, having squeezed out the liquid sweetness he will replace the sponge in the hive to be filled again. Should the innovation become general thousands of bees will doubtless be thrown out of employment. Even bees are not secure against the competition of labor-saving contrivances.

[We have heard of fish stories; this one is certainly spongey.--[Ed.]



EDITOR W. J. CRAIG.

Editorial.

NOVEMBER, 1899.

THE NEW EDITOR

The publishers of the "Canadian Bee Journal" have secured the services of Mr. W. J. Craig as its Editor, and who begins his labors with this issue. Mr. Craig needs no introduction to many Canadian Bee-keepers who have already made his acquaintance at conventions, exhibitions and elsewhere. For the benefit of others we desire to say that Mr. Craig is a young man of integrity of character, is eminently fair minded, has good natural abilities and is well qualified in many ways for the Editorial Chair. Mr. Craig has had several year's experience in practical bee-keeping. And while he may not make very strong assertions as to his knowledge, being naturally modest, still he is capable of giving good advice and rendering the bee-keeping industry good service. Mr. Craig has had considerable ex-

perience as a writer on topics relating to the craft, and we have no doubt but that his Scotch blood contains enough of the quality of perseverance to enable him to make a success of this work. We bespeak for him the hearty co-operation and full confidence of the readers and friends of this journal, because he is eminently worthy of both.

We have heard some criticisms that this Company has used the columns of the "Canadian Bee Journal" too largely for advertising purposes. There may be some ground for complaint in this respect, but let us say that for several years after we assumed its publication we avoided giving any reasonable excuse for such a criticism, but doubting if this action was in the least appreciated, we have latterly relaxed this rule at times. We do not think that any reasonable man should object to our using the advertising pages, (for which we pay the same as other advertisers) and will continue to use the Journal Advertising Department as seems advisable. At the same time we will avoid, as far as possible, any intrusion of mention of our supply trade in the reading matter as we are anxious to remove any prejudice which may exist and to make the Journal useful to Canadian Bee keepers and to their interests.

Goold, Shapley & Muir Co., Ltd.

HENRY YEIGH.

Sec'y-Treas.

Secretary Yeigh has just introduced the new Editor to the readers of the C. B. J., done it in the regular orthodox fashion too, "gently and with a little smoke." Evidently he is aware of the presence of a slight strain of Irish, as well as the Scotch blood that he speaks of. However, we thank Mr. Yeigh for his kind commendation and trust we shall be able to maintain the high reputation presented by him to our readers. We believe that the bee-keeping fraternity have been so well acquainted with this individual, and so friendly disposed to

ward him that there will be little if any danger of "balling." Instead, he looks for their help and co-operation, promising, so far as in him lies, to maintain the independence of the Journal, freeing it from anything that might savor of one-sidedness or of being the organ of any individual or concern. Its columns will be open to all, and free thought, expression, and discussion encouraged. We want our bee-keeping friends to understand right now that the C. B. J. will be largely what they make it.

Some one has spoken about taking the Journal out of the hands of people having "axes to grind." Mr. Yeigh has replied on behalf of the company. As for the Editor, he hasn't got an "axe," and would at this juncture suggest a wholesale burying of axes, hatchets, and everything of the sort and let us begin at the coming Convention "a long pull and a strong pull and a pull altogether."

* * *

THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association will meet in Toronto Dec. 7, 8, 9. An excellent programme has been prepared, a copy of which appears elsewhere in this issue. The Executive, while laboring under a disadvantage through the absence and illness of Secretary Couse, are sparing no pains to make the meeting a success. It certainly will be if they have the co-operation of the members of the Association. The season, no doubt, has been discouraging in many ways, but let us have a grand rally and encourage one another for renewed efforts. Remember it is the closing meeting of the Century. It has been a wonderful Century for advancement and development, and in nothing has this been more evident than in the bee-keeping industry.

Let affiliated societies send all the delegates they can. Often several can go by each having a portion of their expenses paid.

THE DECEMBER C. B. J.

We will endeavor to have the December number of the JOURNAL issued not later than November 27th or 28th, in order to reach our subscribers before their leaving for the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Convention. All matters for publication in that issue should reach this office not later than Nov. 20th.

* * *

A. B. C. NEW EDITION

We have just received a specimen of the new edition of the A. B. C. in Bee-Culture, published by the A. I. Root Co., Medina, Ohio.

It is an excellent work on the subject—clear, definite and practical—a work that should be in the hands of every bee-keeper, or intending bee-keeper. We recommend it to our readers.

We have ordered a number of copies of the book and will be pleased to supply them. Price \$1.25, postage free.

* * *

INVENTIONS

We have noted with regrets how that inventions have been shown and judged and prizes awarded for them at our Industrial Exhibition, year after year, and yet how few people have been really benefitted beyond the inventor himself; this was certainly not the intention of the award. In this issue we are pleased to present to our readers an illustrated description of two exhibited this season by Mr. H. R. Smith, St. Thomas.

* * *

ARE YOUR BEES READY FOR WINTER?

We repeat and emphasize Editor Doolittle's question and would say that if they are not they should be. The fall flow in many localities has been fairly good and much less feeding has had to be done that was at first anticipated.

Annual ... Meetings.

York Bee-Keepers Association.

The fifth annual meeting of the York Bee-keepers' Association was held in the Council Chambers, Stouffville, Oct. 13th, 1899.

The meeting opened at 11 a. m. with the president, Mr. D. W. Heise, in the chair. Others present were as follows: Vice-president, J. F. Davison, Unionville; secretary, L. Mapes, Headford; W. McDonald, Unionville; A. H. Crosby, Markham; J. L. Byer, Markham; W. Br. Button, Ringwood; John Timbers, Scarboro Junction; J. McGillivray, Oak Ridges; W. S. Walton, Ballantrae; Samuel Hall, Pine Orchard; J. T. Dougall, Stouffville; F. Whiteside, Little Britton; A. J. Sheffer, Gormley; W. Stouffer, Ringwood; H. F. Meyer, Cashell; M. J. Vernon, New Market, and others. The secretary read the minutes of the last meeting, which on motion were adopted. The treasurer's annual report showed a balance of \$25.00 on hand which was considered highly satisfactory. The election of officers for the ensuing year followed, which resulted in the old officers all being re-elected. The rest of the time was devoted to the discussion of questions.

FIRST QUESTION—Is it advisable to rob a strong colony at any time for the purpose of building up a weak one? Mr. Byer thought it not advisable, only in case one had a valuable queen whose colony had become so much reduced that her life was in danger, when he would draw from, (not rob,) a strong colony to strengthen the weak one.

Mr. Davison considered it unprofitable, unless the bee keeper had only a few colonies all told, and some were weak, it might pay him to equalize them by exchanging combs, or where he desired increase in numbers rather than honey.

Mr. Walton thought a weak colony could be encouraged by exchanging stands with a powerful one, without decreasing the working force of the strong one to such an extent that it would be much noticed when the main honey flow opens.

The President's first answer to the question was "no," but admitted that circumstances would arise under which

it might be profitable to tinker with weak colonies, he was of the opinion that the queen was a good deal at fault, for a colony being so. He advised, rather than rob a strong colony, to contract the weak colonies to accommodate their size and let them pull along with their own strength, putting supers filled with brood combs on the powerful colonies, and allow the queen to occupy them if she choose to do so. Then when the main honey flow approaches, the combs containing principally hatching brood can be given to the weak colonies, by which they will be able to build up into strong colonies for winter, and by this means the working force of the strong colony is not impaired for the harvest. A number of other members took part in the discussion, and they generally agreed that under ordinary circumstance it would be unwise to rob a strong colony to assist a weak one.

SECOND QUESTION—Is it advisable to reduce a strong colony to go into winter quarters, by destroying the older bees?

The secretary said he considered it advisable, although he had not practised it, yet he believed the old bees were very often a menace to the colony during winter.

Mr. Whiteside considered many old bees in a colony prepared for winter, as being simply consumers up to the time when they could be of most use by contributing of their heat, when lo they die, and often obstruct ventilation. He thought it would be as well to be rid of them, if anyone knew how to make the separation.

Mr. Byer and Mr. Crosby would not destroy the old bees, they thought even though they died before the spring time, yet they were a benefit to the colony while they lived.

Mr. Walton, Mr. Davison, and others thought it might be advisable in some cases so get rid of the old bees, but they questioned the Alpaugh method of accomplishing the object. As by moving the hive one was just as liable to get young bees as old ones in the decoy hive.

Mr. Dougall explained that where the brood-chamber is packed full of brood at the time of the harvest, by moving the hive at the time and putting a decoy in its place, if the bee-keeper could retain only the bees which had never been afield, along with those that will hatch within the next 20 days, he would still have a raising colony for winter, and being all young bees, consequently that colony is in a better condition for wintering than

if the old bees had been allowed to remain.

THIRD QUESTION—What is the opinion of this convention with regard to the O. B. K. A. purchasing the subscription list and good will of the Canadian Bee Journal, and publishing it in future as an official organ?

Mr. Crosby highly approved of such a movement. He quoted the fruit growers association (of which he is a member) experience to show that it is in the interests of an organization to have a Journal managed by it, and published in the interests of the industry which the society represents.

Mr. Davison was somewhat pessimistic with regard to such a movement, yet he admitted, that if the thing was feasible, and if it was properly conducted, it would no doubt be in the interest of the bee-keepers' throughout this province if the change was made.

Mr. Walton was first on one side of the fence and then the other, he finally got right on top of it and shouted, that since the present publishers were anxious that such a change be made, he thought there were features in connection with it that would commend themselves to the bee-keepers' of Ontario. He would favor the change providing it was feasible, and the O. B. K. A. could see its way clear financially to make the purchase.

Mr. Whiteside favored such a change, he considered an organ published by a society would be conducted more in the interests of its members, than one conducted by private individuals who always had more or less axes to grind.

FOURTH QUESTION—Will bees build up as fast in the spring in single walled as in sawdust packed hives?

Mr. Byer thought not, and preferred the packed hive.

Mr. Vernon preferred a single hive un-painted.

Mr. McDonald had no experience with single hives, but thought he would rather take his chances with a packed hive.

Mr. Dougall preferred the single wall hive for building up quick, providing they were well protected by a wind break.

A number of others took part in the discussion, and their opinion was in favor of the packed hive.

A number of other questions came up for discussion which were freely entered into. The meeting which was considered a great success adjourned at 5.30 to meet again at the call of the President.

ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

At Toronto.

The following is the programme for the annual meeting of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association, to be held in the City of Toronto, on 5th, 6th and 7th of December, 1899.

FIRST DAY.

5th—2 p. m., Reading minutes of previous meetings.

3 p. m.—President's annual address; Mr. J. K. Darling, Almonte, is invited to open discussion on the address.

4 p. m.—Paper by D. W. Heisie, Bethesda, on "Spring Management of the Apiary." Discussion led by R. H. Smith, St. Thomas.

5 p. m.—Paper by J. E. Frith, Princeton, on "Management in the Swarming Season." Discussion led by John Pirie, Drumquin.

6 p. m.—Adjournment.

7.30 p. m.—Some observations in Wintering Bees, by John Fixter, Ottawa. Discussion led by C. W. Post, Trenton.

8.30 p. m.—Question Box to be opened by Jacob Alpaugh, Galt. All questions for this box must be in the President's hands not later than 6 p. m.

9 p. m.—Adjournment.

SECOND DAY.

6th—9 a. m.—Official Reports and Communications,

10.30 a. m.—Paper by W. Z. Hutchison, Flint, on Bee-keepers' Associations, their past, present and future. Discussion led by J. B. Hall, Woodstock.

11.15 a. m.—Paper by H. Sibbald, Cooksville, on "Marketing Extracted Honey." Discussion led by John Newton, Thamesford.

12 noon—Adjournment.

1.30 p. m.—Address, by F. A. Gemmill, Stratford, accompanied by his famous wax extractor, showing the only known method of getting all the wax out of old combs. General discussion.

2.15 p. m.—Election of Officers.

3.30 p. m.—Address by Prof. J. W. Robertson, Dairy Commissioner, Ottawa, on "Our Own and Foreign Markets for Honey."

4.30 p. m.—Paper by M. B. Holmes, Athens, on "Management in Extracting Season." Discussion led by J. Armstrong, Cheapside.

5.15 p. m.—Question Box to be opened by J. B. Hall, Woodstock. All questions

for this box to be in President's hands not later than 1.30 p. m.

6 p. m.—Adjournment.

7.30 p. m.—Address by G. E. Saunders, Hornby.

8.15 p. m.—Paper by A. E. Hoshal, Beamsville, on "The Honey Bee and its Relation Towards the Fertilization of Fruit and other Bloom." Discussion led by W. J. Craig, Brantford.

9 p. m.—Adjournment.

THIRD DAY.

7th—9 a. m.—Paper by John Newton, Thamesford, on "The Production of Comb Honey." Discussion led by W. A. Cryslar, Chatham.

10 a. m.—Question Box opened by A. Pickett. All questions for this box must be in President's hands not later than 9 a. m.

11 a. m.—Unfinished and new business.

12 noon, Representatives of both Dominion and Provincial Parliaments are expected to address the Bee-keepers during some of the sessions, as also the Mayor of Toronto. The Executive have endeavored to arrange a very interesting program by taking up nearly all points of interest to Bee-keepers generally.

COUNTY ASSOCIATION MEETINGS.

The annual meeting of the Brant Bee-keepers Association will be held in the Court House, Brantford, on Saturday, Nov. 4th, at 1 o'clock p. m. A full attendance of members requested. Election of officers. Appointing delegates to the Ontario Convention and other business of importance will be brought before the meeting.

J. H. SHAVER, Pres.

C. EDMINSON, Secy.

The annual meeting of the Haldimand Bee-keepers Association will be held at Cayuga, on Friday, Nov. 17th.

How to Tell

A Chinese laundryman was ironing and talking to himself. Picking up a shirt that had every button in place and every rent or rip carefully mended, he said: "Bachelor: him lan'lady fix him." Picking up another shirt that was buttonless and full of rips, with edges frayed, he said: "Mallied man."

J. A. Gilchriese of Welland says: "We have the Canadian Bee Journal in our Public Library at Welland and we like it."

Communications.

THE O. B. K. A. AND THE C. B. J.

To the Editor of the C. B. J.

Dear Sir—I notice in Notes and Picking, Mr. Heise raises the question of the O. B. K. A. taking over the publishing of the Canadian Bee Journal. As a member of the Association I would like to see the Association have an official organ, but there is a doubt in my mind whether it would be a paying venture. Other Associations have their official organs, but just how they succeed I don't know, but I think if the bee-keepers would take an interest in it they might make it a success.

Yours very truly,

R. H. SMITH

St. Thomas, Oct. 19th, 1899.

THE O. B. K. A. AND THE C. B. J.

To the Editor of the C. B. J.

I have noticed the proposal in last issue of the C. B. J., re Association taking over the Journal and running it. I will admit that I sometimes change my mind very suddenly in affairs of that kind, but I think now that it would be a mistake on the part of our association to do anything of the kind. To begin with our association has now all on its hands that it can get along with, with its present membership, besides we have all had the experience, "that what is everybody's business is nobody's business." It is better to have it run outside of the association as long as our interests are as well served as they have been the last three years.

C. W. POST.

Trenton Ont, Oct. 21st, 1899.

OTHERS HAVE THEIR SORROWS.

Dear Editor,—The honey season of 1899 has come to a close, and is generally a failure. I put out 54 colonies last spring, losing 10 in winter. By good management I have a surplus of 2,500 pounds of clover honey. I can get ten cents here for the extracted by retail—I run all my bees for extracted as I think I can make more money.

Our home has been cast into deep mourning by the death of a bright little boy of eight years, in whom our hearts

and pride rested, as we only had two boys. We must abide by the will of God in all his acts, but when we look at our lad's empty place we cannot but be sorrowful.

Yours truly,

MICHAEL MADDEN,

Sar-field, Russel Co., Ont.,
Sept. 18th, 1899.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

To the Editor of the C. B. J.

"Perhaps what might be most interesting to all members of the O. B. K. A. at present, is the fact that at the executive meeting in Ottawa it was decided to hold the annual meeting on the 5th, 6th and 7th of December, and as is already announced the meeting will be in the city of Toronto. The building in which the meeting will be held has not yet been secured, neither has hotel accommodation been arranged for.

Likely the most of our members are aware that our Secretary, Mr. Couse, has been on the sick list for a long time and that may account for some of the matters referred to not having been completed yet. At the request of Mrs. Couse I am endeavoring to do Mr. Couse's work. But everybody knows how difficult it is for one not familiar with the secretary's work to do it, especially in the absence of all data. I am very sorry to hear that Mr. Couse has had a relapse and I am sure that every member of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association sympathise with Mr. and Mrs. Couse in their time of trouble.

Now as to the annual meeting in Toronto. I expect it will be one of the best in the history of the association, as the executive have spared no pains to prepare an interesting programme. Professor Robertson will be with us and give an address on "Our Home and Foreign Markets for Honey," which will be of vast importance to the honey producers of Ontario. It is expected also that representatives of both the Ontario and Dominion Governments will address the meeting at some of its sessions. Although the honey crop is short throughout Ontario, Quebec and many of the Northern States, I have been assured by the Commissioners at Ottawa that enough honey is secured to make a creditable exhibit in Paris, and that the shipment will not be made until February or March next.

J. BROWN, PRES.

Chard, Oct. 14, 1899."

Since the above came to hand Mr.

Brown has again written us to say that accommodation has been secured at the Albion hotel, Jarvis street, for the members of the Association at one dollar per day rate.

We regret very much indeed to learn of the continued illness of Secretary Couse, but we trust that he will soon be restored to health again and be able to take his usual place at the annual meeting where he has been so long and so faithful an officer.—[Ed.]

THE O. B. A. AND THE C. B. J.

EDITOR CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL:

In answer to a request to give my opinions, in the C. B. J. as to the advisability of the O. B. K. A. taking over the Bee Journal, I may say I know nothing of the financial aspect of the question, but I think it would be very desirable to have at least one journal on the continent devoted exclusively to the interest of Bee-keepers. I mean those Bee-keepers now in the business, for I take no interest in the Bee-keeper that may be induced to take up that occupation through the advice of Bee-keepers or Bee Journals. I know of no journal published entirely in our interests. If the publishers of bee papers are not induced to boom the profession in order to have more customers to whom they may sell supplies or from whom they may buy cheap honey, the desire for a larger field from which they may secure subscribers produces the same result, but would we be any better if the Bee Journal came under the control of the O. B. K. A. ? I am afraid not. I doubt whether we could agree as to what should be inserted therein. There is a danger of its falling under the control of some "goody goody" blatherskite, whose chief aim in life is to induce every man and his sisters and his cousins and his aunts to keep bees.

Perhaps few of the members of the O. B. K. A. would agree with me, but here are my ideas of what a good bee paper should be.

1st. It should strictly exclude from its columns all reports of big crops, they are seldom true and always misleading. A few men have found wealth in the Klor dike, but how few in comparison to the host of failures, and the fate of Bee keepers is very similar, but ever if it were all true and the business was a sure source of wealth, would it be wise to have it so proclaimed on the house top.

2nd. I think that a Bee-Journal should honestly publish failures, when I was at the Guelph convention, I learned for the first time that honey was a failure that year in the vicinity of Ottawa. Why were the readers of the C. B. J. not made aware of that fact, many of us had good crops and thought they were universal throughout the Province. The full extent of the failure this year has not been made as plain in the columns of the C. B. J. as it should have been. Here is my report and I think it is a sample that will apply to most of the Province this year. Spring count 97 hives, fall count 102—honey taken 250 lbs. of dark honey sold for 7c, \$17.50; outlay for labor, hives, etc., \$51.50—loss over the year's operations, \$34. Let us have the dark side of the business and not always the sunny side.

3rd. I think the reports of conventions especially those of the O. B. A., which are printed and distributed among its members, should not be printed in full, but only a synopsis containing the practical points brought out, should be published, and thus leave more room for the discussion of matters affecting the profession. These are only a few suggestions that occur to me now, and not by any means covering the whole question. I think we should, in any case, try to sustain a Bee Journal in Canada, and I hope to see your paper better patronized in the future, no matter who publishes it. The Bee-keepers' of Ontario have themselves largely to blame if their paper is uninteresting.

Yours truly,

Islington Ont.

J. D. EVANS.

The Old Homestead.

"Some Common Sources of Impurity in Country Houses" is the subject of a paper by Harvey D. Ashmore, M. D., in *The Sanitarian*. Of cellars and wells he speaks as follows:—

"Cellars in country houses furnish another source of impurity, not only by being pervious and damp, but by being the receptacle of decaying wood, vegetables, etc. Then, too, the absence of sunlight—a characteristic of cellars—favors bacterial growth. The housewife keeps her cellar dark because in summer it will be cooler, and in winter the so-called windows are boarded up to keep out the cold. Cellars should be kept as clean as any other part of the house, and should have proper-sized windows to let in the sunlight. The sun is one of the greatest

germ destroyers we have, and is superior to all other germicides in that it costs nothing.

So much has been said about the country well that it needs only a word in this purview. The country people love their 'old wells.' They always tell you: 'Why, nobody ever got sick from our well!' I came across just such a well within the last few months. Three generations back this old well furnished water for the same family, and no one, in fact, ever became sick from it. At last the old folks died, and the second generation started on its way with a large family of sons and daughters. Still no one became sick. The third generation became men and women, and still resided at the old homestead; then, at last, after so many years, the old well began its deadly work. One after another of the family was stricken with typhoid fever until four were ill at the same time, and that homestead will never be the same it once was, for there are two vacant places, and this old well, which before had 'never made anyone sick,' yielded on chemical examination, 170 parts of chlorine per 100,000 not far from dilute sewerage.

The ailments of the 'Old Homestead' seem very enticing on the stage or on canvas, but under the exacting eye of the sanitarian, with his increased angle of vision, 'things are not always what they seem.'

The vine-clad porch, with its wistaria and fragrant honeysuckle, where 'mother used to sit,' resolves itself into a damp, musty, sunless nursery of the chronic rheumatism which made 'mothers life a burden.' The old well, with its 'pure, sweet water,' has become a vast test-tube of colon bacillus at least, if none other, and the delightfully pure air, redolent with the perfume of flowers, has become an air surcharged with moisture reeking with the gasses of decomposition, from a befouled soil and a cellar soil and air saturated with the mouldy debris of decayed vegetables. Such is not rarely the true story of the 'old homestead.'"

Grape Catsup—Stew 5 lbs. of grapes over a slow fire until soft. Then strain through a sieve. Add 2½ lbs. of sugar, one tablespoonful each of cinnamon, allspice, cloves and pepper, one-half tablespoonful of salt, one pint of vinegar. Boil until a little thick, and then bottle. This makes an excellent sauce for cold meats.

From
the
Journals

Seasonable Items

ARE YOUR BEES READY FOR WINTER—
Fearing that some may not be, (from the many letters I receive telling of the poor season and that they will be obliged to feed) I am led to urge any who have not attended to this matter of winter preparation to do so at once. And I am asked to tell what to feed when stores are lacking and the person has not enough honey to go around. In such a case I know of nothing better than the following: Take any tin, iron, or copper vessel, of suitable size, and pour therein fifteen pounds of water, placing the vessel over the fire till the water boils, when thirty pounds of granulated sugar is poured in, stirring briskly while slowly pouring, so that it may not fall in a mass to the bottom of the vessel and burn before it is dissolved. Having stirred till all danger of burning is over, allow it to remain over the fire till the whole begins to boil again, when the vessel and contents are set from the fire and five pounds of extracted honey stirred in. As soon as it is so cool that you can bear your finger in it, it is ready for the bees, and can be fed in any of the good feeders in use, or you can provide a feeder by using any pan, basin, or can you may happen to have, always using some grass, shavings, corn cobs, etc., for a float to keep the bees from drowning. The honey is put in the feed to keep it from turning back to sugar again, and is the only sure thing in keeping thick sugar syrup in the liquid form that I know of.—G. M. DOOLITTLE, in *Progressive Bee-Keeper*.

* * * *

"All combs should be examined to make sure as to stores, bearing in mind that weight alone is not a safe guide because many combs may be filled with pollen only, which is not food for adult bees, and such combs should be removed altogether, along with any others over and above the number the bees can cover. In giving food at this season it is best to use a feeder of the "rapid" type, large enough to hold the full supply needed, and after the bees have been tested as to their readiness to take food readily, by giving half a pint of warm syrup as a

trial dose, the rest may be given at one operation next evening after sunset, and if the feeder is properly arranged its contents will be taken down by the following morning.—*British Bee Journal*.

* * * *

Not later than October 1st, every colony should be in good shape for winter.

The bees to be wintered out-of-doors should be packed during the latter part of October or early in November.

The bees to be wintered in the cellar should be made ready to place there early in November, so that when rough weather comes they may be promptly put in.

It is very desirable that they have a good flight just before their removal to the cellar.—F. A. SNELL, in A. B. J.

* * * *

Our experience is that colonies put away with plenty of young bees have come through the winter strong.

The individual units have energy and vigor, and such colonies give a good account of themselves the following season. On the other hand, colonies put away with old bees either die outright or come through so weak as to be worthless at least half the next season.

Packing pays well. Getting a colony through the winter alive is not necessarily successful wintering; it may be very poor wintering if being alive means having a queen and a pint or so of spiritless bees that go feebly forth when the fruit trees bloom, get a little load, return, and light on the fence to rest. When a colony comes through, strong in numbers, with bees full of push and pluck, rushing to the early flowers and, returning, light at the entrance and go in with a Chicago rush,—that is successful wintering.—S. P. CULLEY, in *Progressive Bee Keeper*.

The Author of "In His Steps."

The author of "In His Steps," the famous religious book, of which over three million copies have now been sold, has been induced to answer, in an article which he has sent to *The Ladies' Home Journal*, the question which unconsciously comes to the mind after reading his book: "Is this plan practicable in our present daily life?" Mr. Sheldon does not evade the question, but answers it in a direct and vigorous manner, and tells exactly what he believes would be the effect of his plan upon modern business methods and present-day social life.

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