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CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

NEW SERIES
VOL. VI, No. 3.

BRANTFORD, ONT., SEPT., 1898.

WHOLE NO.
403

The United States Bee-keepers' Union will meet at Omaha, Sept. 13th to 15th.

The program is not yet complete. I understand that Messrs. S. T. Pettit and Wm. McEvoy will give papers. For full particulars write the secretary, Dr. A. B. Mason, Station B, Toledo, Ohio, or Hon. E. Whitcomb, Apiarian Commissioner, Trans-Mississippi Exposition, Omaha, Nebraska. The convention will be held at the Delone Hotel. Hotel rates: board and lodging \$3 per day.

* * *

While visiting Mr. Jacob Alpaugh, Galt, we learned something new about introducing queen cells. Mr.

Something New Alpaugh, when giving a
In Queen Cell capped cell to a colony,
Introduction shoves it in at the entrance, allowing it to eat upon its side. Mr. Alpaugh says that the bees will cluster on the cell, and it will hatch there as well as anywhere, and his method saves time when inserting the cell. A young queen is often lost as a result of opening the hive soon after she emerges from the cell. When put in the hive from the top, they also cannot be examined, to see if it has hatched, without disturbing the colony. If put at the entrance, it can. Again, if more than one is inserted during the time honey is being in, the first queen may lead out a swarm. Mr. Alpaugh has placed several bars at the entrance, and so far it has

never resulted in the first queen leading out a swarm.

Later we visited Mr. S. T. Pettit, Belmont, and found that Mr. Pettit has been treating cells in this way some time. Mr. Pettit has a little device of wood which contains the cell, with point free and projecting through the device. By means of this the cell can be shoved further into the hive.

* * *

Among those spicy, seasonably cut, cured and dried Stray Straws of Dr.

Miller's in GLEANINGS, we find the following, "Cleats on 8
16 fence are said to be two-twelfths inch thick. I am

puzzled to know why one-sixth wouldn't do as well." Editor Root, in a footnote, says, "In the Canadian journals I know it seems to be the rule to talk in 1/16ths, 1/32nds, or 1/100ths. If, for instance, they are talking in 1/16ths, the denominator is carried clear through and only the numerator is changed; that is, they have the same noun, but change the adjective. For instance, a certain thing is 7/16ths one way and 8/16ths the other." Now look here, Ernest, if such a thing appeared in the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL or any other Canadian Journal, it was very wrong. These new-fangled ways of our American friends in dealing with fractions and spelling, give us a chance to cover almost all our mistakes. The new "free-and-easy go-as-you-please" style of spelling will cover up almost all our slips in spelling, but I have serious doubts that

you will ever find them embodied in our educational system.

* * *

Every little while someone anxious about robbing, writes in for information how to stop it, and so on.

Last spring a bee-keeper

Robbing had a good joke on me. I said robbing did not trouble me, and he went over to the

yard and found the bees robbing out a colony. It happened in the spring. The colony was queenless and I did not know it, as I prefer to let a colony remain queenless at that season rather than tear the quilts loose and let the heat escape. If bees are left alone and no stores exposed, there is not much danger from robbing. Stocks can even be fairly weak, but they should not be queenless. At this season, with but little honey coming in, I avoid handling bees and exposing comb. When work has to be done, I do not let it take a moment longer than necessary, and do not work long at a time. As far as possible, I do such work towards evening. I have before mentioned that the best time to remove supers is in the early morning, after a cool night. The bees will have drawn fairly well from the combs in the super. Sometimes the entire super can be removed; at others, the outside combs, and the balance spread, to induce the bees to draw away from them to the next.

* * *

Editor York, in August 11th American Bee Journal, says:—

“SYSTEMATIC PILFERING.—The item under that head on page 394 of this journal is quoted by Editor Holtermann, of the Canadian Bee Journal, the item ending by saying, ‘But by all means Mr. Holtermann, be sure you first follow the instruction given by the Great Teacher,

**A Valuable
Suggestion**

in Matthew xviii, 18.” To this the editor replies:

“Did it hit. When the editor of the Canadian Bee Journal transgresses as per above, he will be obliged if you will let him know it.”

“No wonder Editor Holtermann felt guiltless of any charge on reading Matthew

xviii, 18, but if he had read the verse intended—the 15th verse of the same chapter—he would have found these words:

“Moreover, if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.”

“That remark, ‘Did it hit,’ (by the way, Mr. Holtermann, you ought to use an interrogation point after ‘Did it hit,’ also after another question in the same column)—that remark makes this Boia feel sure he is the guilty party. He confesses the crime, is sorry for it, promises never to do so again, asks pardon of the Editor of the Canadian Bee Journal, and will anxiously watch the editorial columns of that paper to see that pardon duly proclaimed.”

All right, friend York, I cheerfully forgive you for both mistakes. I can well understand the temptations other journals may have to absorb some of the valuable, new and practical points which are constantly appearing in the columns of The CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. It would be much better if Matthew xviii, 15 were followed. Much ill-feeling would be avoided. There is no excuse for me or anyone else who does not follow that scriptural injunction. Is it not true that in an instance such as the above no bee journal on this continent has followed it out? Editor York, why did you not write me privately that I had made a mistake (in your estimation) when I did not use that INTERROGATION POINT? Surely you will take your own medicine. Then I could have told you privately that anyone could see it was a question. But interrogation points are much more superfluous than the d’s and ed’s you drop in every direction in the A. B. J.

* * *

At this date of writing—Aug. 17th—we just manage to crowd in the statement that in three of the Ontario apairies of the Goad, Shapley & Muir Co., Limited, buckwheat honey is coming in very fast. This will be of interest to those in buckwheat districts.

BEE-KEEPING IN BRANT COUNTY

—JAS. J. HURLEY.

BEE-KEEPING in the county of Brant has grown to be quite an industry. The county is the home of some of the most advanced and successful beekeepers in the Dominion, many of whom have taken the highest awards in honey at the Toronto Exhibition. Those who are

during the honey season and subsequently, a large display of honey in glass and other packages, for which ready purchasers are always at hand.

Doubtless, the most powerful stimulus upon bee-keeping and the production of honey in the county has been the presence for the past twenty years of the E. L. Goold & Co., and latterly the Goold Shap-



Jas. Shaver Mr. Shaver, sr. Mrs. Jas. Shaver.
The gentleman at the doorstep is the father of Mr. Jas. Shaver.

APIARY OF JAS. SHAVER, ESQ., CAINSVILLE.

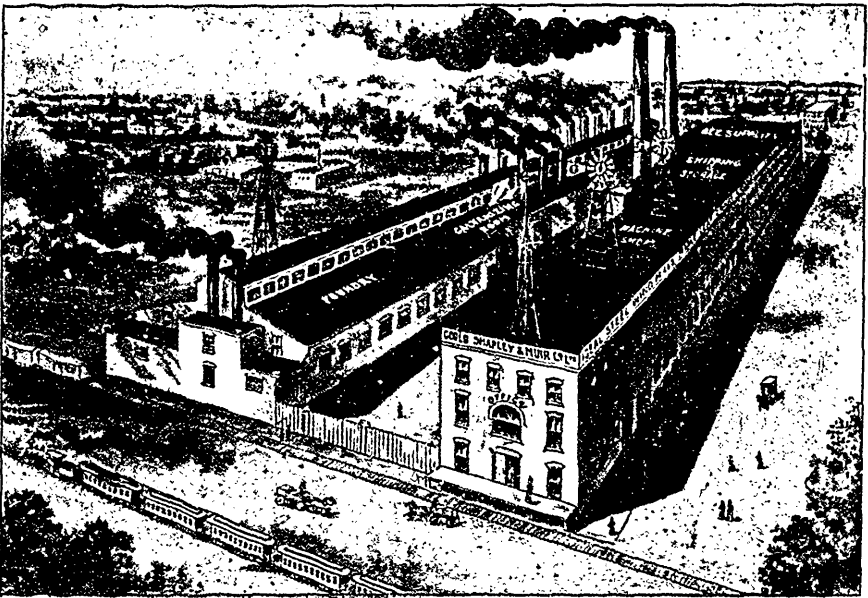
large producers find a market for their honey in the larger centres of the Dominion, but to the average small producer, the city of Brantford offers a very fair market at good prices. Brantford, the county seat, possesses one of the best all round farm produce markets that can be found in Western Ontario. The producer and consumer are brought in immediate contact. It is no unusual thing to see displayed upon the market on any Saturday

ley & Muir Co., Limited, bee supply dealers. The education they have been responsible for has been almost incalculable. The agriculturist and fruit-grower have become convinced of the fertilizing properties of the honey bee. The above company have become the recognized supply dealers of the Dominion. Time and again the Goold, Shapley & Muir Co. have had to increase the capacity of their factory. At the present moment they are

equipping a very large factory, an illustration of which is shown, and it is expected that it will meet all the requirements of their rapidly-increasing business. As an evidence of the popularity of the company in the city of Brantford, the high esteem in which it is held, and the confidence entertained for it, it is only necessary to mention the fact that the city has presented the company with the land and buildings for their new factory. Repairs are now under way fitting the buildings suitable for their business. The writer, in a recent interview with a prominent mem-

made from time to time at the various fall fairs. In this way the company are constantly using their own supplies in large quantities, thus submitting them to vigorous tests. This practical experience ensures the trade the very best up-to-date supplies and methods. Four views of the company's apiaries are here presented. Their present stock makes them, as far we know, the most extensive bee-keepers in the country.

There is also shown a view of the apiary of Mr. J. Shaver, of Cainsville. Mr. Shaver is a very able and extensive bee-



FACTORY OF GOOLD, SHAPLEY & MUIR CO., LIMITED

ber of the company, found him to be most optimistic in regard to the volume of trade for the future, but complained that the profits are cut so fine that there is scarcely a legitimate business margin. This may be true, but of what business can the same not be said?

The company has a great advantage over its competitors, in that they are large producers of honey, having something over four hundred colonies of bees. Mr. R. F. Holtermann, the well-known bee specialist, has full charge of this department. The measure of his success is the large business of the company, and the high standing of the various exhibits

keeper. Last year he exhibited at the Toronto Industrial, and captured some of the best prizes. He exhibits again this year. Mr. Shaver has been president of the Brant Bee-keepers' Association for several years.

Mr. F. J. Davis is also another good bee-keeper of Cainsville. In addition to his own apiary of sixty colonies, he has charge of the Goold, Shapley & Muir Co's. apiary, and appears in the view of the company's Cainsville yard. He is considerable of a specialist, and is vice-president of the Brant Bee-keepers' Ass'n. We regret that his son "Aleck," who is quite a help in the apiary and takes a

deep interest in bees, was not at home when the photograph of the apiary was taken.

Mr. C. Edmonson, whose apiary is also shown, is secretary of the Brant Bee-keepers' Association. He is a painstaking and successful bee-keeper, and would easily make a successful exhibitor.

There are a great many more bee-keepers in the country. I am informed that in one day during this summer, over sixty different persons drove in to the

up in a manner specially by them.

Chief among the members of the Brant Bee-keepers' Asso'n are the following:—

R. P. Holtermann, James Shaver, W. Edmonson, J. E. Heron, S. A. Dickie, J. R. Howell, W. H. Shapley, Geo. Vair, Jr., Thos. Birkett, C. Edmondson, John Inksater, John Findlay, Geo. Atkinson, A. Dawson, O. McAlister, Duncan Campbell, C. Flanders, G. W. Barber, W. Phelps, Geo. Morris, D. Birch, R. L. Paterson, J. McInyre, W. Reddick,



Mrs. F. J. Davis F. J. Davis
R. F. Holtermann

*H. Rowsome
Miss Pearl Davis. Miss Annie Davis.

*Mr. Rowsome is the gentleman who contributed an article on "The Taylor Swarm Catcher" in the August C. B. J. (Alick, the son and junior bee-keeper, is unavoidably absent.)

GOULD, SHAPLEY & MUIR CO., LIMITED, AND F. J. DAVIS' APIARIES,
AT THE HOME OF F. J. DAVIS, CAINSVILLE, ONT.

Goold, Shapley & Muir Co.'s place of business, for supplies.

The county of Brant contains the Ontario Government experimental apiary, conducted by Mr. R. F. Holtermann; also *THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL*, edited by the same gentleman. Queen rearing and shipping has been no small enterprise. From this country have been shipped during the last three years more bees and queens than from any other county in the Dominion. The Goold, Shapley & Muir Co. has met with great success in the shipping of queens all over this continent, put

S. McCubbin, I. Lundy, Thos. Murray, E. G. Robinson, Geo. Springstead, A. McMeans, D. Ramey, Cyrus Kitchen, F. A. Pyke, C. Johnson, Thos. Ivey, L. Petrie, A. Steedman, J. Shaver, Ben Jackson, Evi Adams, L. Chapin, W. Minshall, Sam. Cleaver, R. J. Taylor, W. G. Ash, F. J. Davis, W. S. Steele, Robert Edwards, Philip Hamilton, John Charlton, Walter Charlton, D. Westbrook, Edgerton Shaver, Miss A. Fulton, W. Bayless, Alex. Taylor, W. J. Craig, Charles Kelly, A. Wilson, M. G. Pepper, Thos. Head.

The Newer Portions of Ontario.

—R. F. HOLTERMANN.

Some months ago I promised to give the readers of the Canadian Bee Journal some notes on a two months' farmers' institute trip through the Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algoma districts. Pressure of work has prevented my carrying out my promise until this late date, and much has slipped my memory; I shall therefore be brief.

the majority of cases as well as the average Ontario farmer, and make their living, with few exceptions from the soil. Although northern Muskoka is perhaps the roughest of any of the districts I visited, there are many portions with sufficient cultivatable land to carry on what are supposed to be the most paying branches of agriculture. In the east and west Parry Sound districts there is plenty of land suitable for cultivation. Of Algoma I saw only a limited portion. I believe there is a great deal of rough land in Algoma, but I know at Barr river and about Sault Ste. Marie there is land second to none in the Province. The Manitoulin



Mr. and Mrs. C. Edmondson and two children.

APIARY OF C. EDMONDSON, BRANTFORD.

The policy of the last—and that of the present—Dominion Government is to try and bring settlers to Manitoba and the North West. This is good enough in itself, but there are portions of the Province of Ontario which offer quite as inviting a field for settlement. Our own Province is making an effort itself to settle the north western portion of Ontario, and I believe that everyone in the Province should embrace every opportunity to carry on the good work. The majority of Ontario people have a very wrong impression of this portion of our Province. To begin with, the people who live in the Algoma districts have more than average education; they live comfortably, and in

Islands have some very good land, but a great deal of rock bluff, flat rock with shallow soil, and many small lakes.

Although I had a good opinion of much of the land up there, nothing suited me so well as St. Joseph Island. The island is in Lake Huron, some thirty miles from the Sault Ste. Marie and four miles from the mainland the landing being some seven miles from a C. P. R. station. The island is some fifteen miles long by nine or more wide. There is not a bluff of rock on the island; some round stone, but not much. The soil runs from a heavy clay to sand; a very large percentage will make splendid farming land. Much of it is timbered with first-class maple, half of

it bird's-eye maple, which is becoming so valuable for furniture. The water surrounding the island keeps off early frosts. I saw Northern Spy apples grown on the island. About ten years ago there was not a farmer on the island; to-day there are some four hundred families. Quite a few have gone there with nothing, and now have comfortable homes. I have been in the Northwest, and would prefer the island to that country. This northern country cannot be beat for dairying, sheep, stock-raising; pasture and water are abundant. When it comes to bee-keeping, with clover knee deep even in the woods, and the abundance of blossoms, I believe it cannot be beat in any part of the Province, and were I a young man looking for an opening in life, I would go into that country, engaging largely in bee-keeping. Many an Ontario farmer, paying a rent per annum equal to what land could be bought for there, would do well to move there. I know of several very desirable locations that could be secured there. The Bruce mines re-opening and the large number of boats plying up and down the lakes, should furnish a splendid market for every good article produced. As to climate, it is enjoyable winter and summer, and for health, leaves nothing to be desired. I drove some 1,200 miles, and enjoyed every bit of it.

caring for bees that are not easily eradicated, though disinclination and dread of much care and tedious work have wrought a mighty change.

If the reader will take the time to investigate, he will find that nearly all of



MR. JAS. SHAVER, Catsville,
President Brant Bee-Keepers' Association.

The Old and the New.

—G. W. DEMAREE.

The purpose of this article is to inquire into the methods of manipulating bees in the past, and at the present time. Let it be understood that, in contrasting the present management of bees with the past, I have reference to MODERN BEE CULTURE. I accept it as a fact that MODERN BEE CULTURE, as an improved system of keeping bees, is a new creation as it were, so radically different from the old, old mole and bat system of the decades of the past, that the new system itself has its "old" and its "new history."

The writer of this article handled bees under the ancient "luck" system, and did not, by any means, jump into the new, but slowly and cautiously worked his way into the then new field of knowledge of the natural history and habits of bees. And he then formed conclusions concerning the most profitable methods of

the ablest writers of twenty years ago insisted that all the colonies in the apiary should be treated as individuals, that every colony in the yard should be inspected as often as any causes would have time to effect materially its prosperity.

This plan of caring for the apiary was strictly followed by the writer for perhaps ten years, and during this decade of years my loss of colonies did not exceed two per cent of loss from all causes. The winters and honey seasons were uncertain then, much as they are now.

It will be remembered that in process of time some writers began to question, and even condemn the plan of examining bees "too often," and the "let alone" system has become popular. In my experience the result is, our apiaries have become uneven in strength, where strength is needed to reap our short honey harvests, and our profits have dwindled. I insist that no apiary, in the very nature of things, can be handled in the aggregation with systematic certainty. The apiary

consists of a given number of colonies, separate and distinct from each other, and each colony has its own needs and conditional necessities.

A vigorous, prolific queen may sometimes by her large family, bring the colony to want—often starvation—in the near approach of the honey harvest, while an inferior queen with a weaker working force will pass the danger point and reap the harvest with an inferior force, with little profit to the apiarist. It is the business of the wide-awake apiarist to know

an extra good honey season, my comparatively large apiary, located in the rich blue grass regions of Kentucky, attracted so much attention, that people came from far and near to see the novel enterprise of a modern apiary with its modern equipment, and its queen rearing department attached, its shop for making hives and other implements used in the apiary, etc., etc. So many visitors wanted to see the "queen"—the "King" of the dim past—to save time and labor, I prepared a strong colony of gentle Italian bees, so that it



H. Rowsome J. J. Hurley Enid and Louise Holtermann

APIARY OF GOOLD, SHAPLEY & MUIR CO., LIMITED, AT THE HOME OF
R. F. HOLTERMANN, BRANTFORD, ONT.

the condition of every colony in his yard, if he wants to make his business profitable, and this cannot be done without "handling the bees."

Is it injurious to bees to handle them often? is a question frequently asked now days, and it appears to me that the dread of 'much work,' is usually behind it.

Judging from my own experience of more than twenty years of observations in the apiary, and practical work with bees, it is not detrimental to them to manipulate the hives and the bees as often as there are causes for such operations, and thousands of valuable colonies of bees are saved by watchful care over their internal condition. Some years ago, during

was rapidly manipulated in showing her majesty to all curiosity seekers, and another colony was kept at queen cell building, to show this phase of bee economy. These prepared colonies were opened up daily, and sometimes a number of times during the day, for weeks, or during a long honey season.

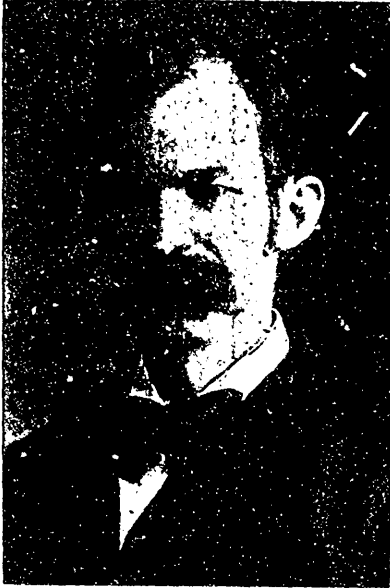
Some people may want to doubt it, when I say that these much handled bees prospered right along, gathered honey, increased in strength, and came through the season in as good a condition as other colonies that had only been manipulated as often as was necessary to supply room, take off honey, etc.

Christiansburg, Ky., U. S. A.

The Past Season.

—ALPINE MCGREGOR.

The honey season is now over in this locality and I have to report another failure for the incomparable (?) basswood. Instead however, of the delicious flavored basswood nectar, the bees are bringing in a sweetish, sourish, yellowish juice which I at first



F. J. DAVIS,

Vice-President Brant Bee-Keepers' Association.

thought was the secretions of the aphides or plant lice described by Prof. Cook. The basswood leaves are covered with the exudation of these insects. This is the first time I have noticed it in an experience extending over fifteen years. I have not noticed any bees on the leaves, however, and investigation has nearly convinced me that the above described juice is being gathered from milk weed. Should like to know your opinion. The sections now on the hive which are unfinished are spoiled with this stuff.

Alsike clover was in bloom about two weeks before it began to "give down" to any extent, but about the last week in June the "flow" commenced in good earnest. From 40 colonies worked for extracted honey I have taken nearly two tons, about

three-fourths of which is fine well-ripened clover honey. 20 colonies run for comb honey yielded probably 40 finished sections each. A large number are still on the hives. I should like to see reports from other localities in order to judge as to the demand and price of honey.

I hived nearly all my swarms this season which were very large on 6 and 8 frames of wired foundation. Most of these clung to the brood chamber till all the foundation was drawn out and then swarmed again after filling one super of sections. I was not smart enough to hive any on starters as I have done in the past but I imagine had I done so I would have got more comb honey. Perhaps the reason the bees did not enter the sections sooner was on account of the cool weather and light "flow."

The hives from which first swarms swarmed the second time were raised on blocks from bottom boards. I was surprised at this as many of my colonies worked for extracted honey did not swarm at all, though they were very strong and occupied two and three stories.

I should like to see a photograph in the C. B. J. of the different grades of comb honey. It would be appreciated by more than the writer.

Inglewood, July 21st, 1898

[The honey flow generally has been above the average, clover has yielded well, basswood or linden has yielded but little. As to grading comb honey there appears to be quite a diversity of opinion. If some of us will get together at the Toronto Exhibition and select a dozen sections as they should be in each grade we will have them photographed and illustrated in the Canadian Bee Journal. —Ed.]

Varieties of Honey.

We want as great a variety of honey as possible from different parts of the Dominion and would esteem it a favour if bee-keepers, who are willing to send one pound samples, will write to me stating the kind of honey it is. I am anxious to get some samples from all over, but more particularly the newer parts of Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, N. W. T., British Columbia, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

Address,

R. F. HOLTERMANN,
Brantford, Canada.

Notes from the Central Ontario
Apiaries.

—C. W. POST.

During the past spring very little work was done in the apiary before the first of June except looking in the hives occasionally to see if they had sufficient stores. On the first of June we commenced moving them to the out apiaries. The first car was taken to Rawdon Station on the C. P. R. and unloaded near a siding on the flat rock, which is surrounded by a dense growth of cedar bushes, and being in a deep ravine, it was the hottest place that could be selected. This apiary consisted of sixty Carniolans mated to Italian drones two tested Carniolans, thirty fine Italians and fine black mated to Italian drones.

In moving each hive is screened both top and bottom, and the bottom screen remains on during the season. The top stories were placed on at once and a three-eighth block placed under the back corners of the hives, between the screen and bottom boards to give ventilation. This was all the ventilation required until about the 28th of June, the extracting supers being nearly all filled and partly capped. Some of the Carniolans were starting queen cells. At this time all bottom boards were removed. About a dozen that had started queen cells swarmed, it being the most swarming that I have had in five years combined. When the combs were all sealed on the first days of July I placed a section super with full sheets of foundation under each top story and placed the queen excluders between the extracting supers and sections. This was done to keep the sections clean and to prevent the combs from being attached to tops of sections. They went to work in the sections at once and drew out the foundation nicely, but at this time, (July 5th) we got a cold wave and a light frost. This with the extreme drouth ended the clover for 1898. On July 7th, basswood commenced to bloom and the top stories were taken off at once and extracted and the bees crowded down in one super of 35 sections each. On the nights of July 9th and 10th we got heavy frosts that killed corn and potatoes and froze the tops off basswood sprouts in one of my apiaries 3 feet high. On July 12th basswood commenced to secrete nectar again moderately and the bees commenced to store in

the sections. My supers are so constructed that I can give upward ventilation to the brood chambers and at the same time retain the heat in the supers. To explain them fully, I will give a cut of them in another number of C. B. J. As the weather again became hot, all supers were ventilated, and as the bees were very strong, the most of them filled their supers well with basswood honey, and not one swarmed after changing to comb honey.

At the close of the flow, which was very light, the supers were raised and the extracting supers placed on the hives with a bee escape between the sections and extracting supers, and the next day the comb honey was stacked up in a large tent and ready to go on the car when the bees are moved.

The Springbrook apiary, of the same number of colonies, three miles farther north was run in the same way, with the exception of the bottom not being removed. The back ends of hives were raised on $\frac{3}{8}$ blocks and not a swarm issued during the season. With these two apiaries a small one at home and one at Presque Isle Bay, eight miles from home—I had all the work I cared to attend to.

I visited Rawdon and Springbrook apiaries daily by rail, a distance of twenty-three miles, and did all the work excepting help in the extracting and about ten days swarming at Rawdon apiary and moving.

I consider swarming one of the greatest drawbacks to the apiarist. I can attend to 300 colonies that show no disposition to swarm, with less work and trouble than to 100 colonies that get the swarming fever.

August 1st, 1898.

(To be continued.)

Honey for Goods.

Those willing to take bee-keepers supplies, manufactured by us, for honey or bees wax, should write us at once. We can take a limited quantity in this way. State quantity you have, the kind of honey, and how put up. Goods may be taken any time it suits the bee-keeper.

Address,

Goold, Shapley & Muir Co., Limited,
Brantford, Canada.

 Bee-Keeping in Manitoba.

—J. J. GUNN.

Bee-keeping in this Province, while it may not aspire to be classed as an industry, should no longer be looked upon as merely experimental. If but few have reserved a portion of their attention from the almost general pursuit of grain growing, and applied it to the problem of deriving something more than eye-pleasure from the vast areas of gorgeous bloom our

wintering ten colonies outside, preparing each one in a different manner and the result in every case was the same—a clear case of freeze out. And if there had been ten thousand hives the chances are all against variety in results. Some instances are known of bees wintering out, but no man who has had any experience with bees in this province will try that plan twice, unless he wishes to get rid of his stock. A perfectly dry and well ventilated cellar is the natural winter home of the bee in Manitoba and this is what may be, and doubtless will be, provided wherever bee-keeping is practised here. We have wintered ours in a stone-lined cellar under the dwelling house for the past



GOOLD, SHAPLEY & MUIR CO., LIMITED. APIARY AT HAWTREY, ONT.

prairie land affords, these few have not only met, in almost every instance, with most gratifying success, but solved for themselves and all who choose to follow their example the questions most vital to bee-keeping here.

The question of how to winter has all along been a bugbear with those used to Ontario conditions and practices. Our climatic conditions differ so greatly from those of Ontario as to render methods quite common and successful there inadequate. In a paper read before a recent meeting of the Manitoba Horticultural Society, Mr. Bedford of the Experimental Farm at Brandon, states that he tried

eleven years and always successfully so long as the ventilation was right. The temperature keeps safely above freezing without any artificial heat. The depth to which frost penetrates the earth proves to be no drawback but rather a benefit, as it ensures an even, though at first gradually declining temperature, the advantage of which is apparent. For instance, just now we are having June weather and January weather all jumbled together—which is not an uncommon thing in March—but Jack Frost is down there holding things even and the bees are at peace.

A much more serious hindrance to profitable bee-keeping, as it is one that

will take longer to overcome, is the lack of shelter in the open country.

Of course the question: Can bees live in a country where clover is not cultivated? will continue to be asked. But this has been answered even more satisfactorily than the previous one. That bees do not live by clover alone or even supplemented with buckwheat, may be gathered from the fact that, during the past season, I extracted an average of seventy-four pounds of honey from each hive—old stocks and swarms.

We have pasture in abundance and of the best kind for bees. In the paper already referred to, Mr. Bedford states that we have at least sixty wild plants that yield honey. How many more, is another question. Although clover is not cultivated to any extent the white Dutch variety grows wild in many localities, disputing the possession of the uncultivated land with the much cursed Canadian thistles. In the eastern portion of the Province these are undoubtedly the staple honey plants, particularly in the Red River valley. But even in the western parts, where the thistle is comparatively unknown, its absence is not looked upon as a drawback to beekeeping; at least no attempts have yet been made to propagate it for that purpose, so plentiful are honey-bearing plants of other varieties. We have but little basswood and that little confined to one or two places, so that basswood honey is never likely to be a staple with us; but that matters little so long as what we do produce can compete with that or the best clover honey of Ontario. And that it can do this is no longer a question with any who have opportunities of judging. In selling the product of last season I have repeatedly had purchasers pronounce it "better than the best" Ontario. While this may seem extravagant, it is a fact that most—though of course not all—of our honey is as white as the whitest, and has a flavor so delicate and rare as to place it almost without the arena of competition. What gives it this remarkable quality I cannot say; and I have never heard it referred to any one plant. Probably it is owing to a combination which the variety of our wild bloom renders possible.

Any one who spends a summer in Manitoba and notes the profusion of bloom, from the willow catkins of April to the latest asters of early October, will no longer question its honey-producing possibilities; and any one wishing to take advantage of these has but to study the conditions in which he finds himself, to

make bee-keeping as successful and as profitable as it is in any other part of the Dominion.

AN EXHIBIT OF BEES.

This Will be a Feature at the
Toronto Industrial.

One of the most interesting and most unique features of the forthcoming Industrial Exhibition, to be held in Toronto from August 29 to September 10, will be an exhibition of bees under the management of Mr. K. F. Holtermann, lecturer on bee keeping at the Agricultural College, Guelph. Mr. Holtermann has made twenty years of close study of the habits of the honey bee. He will, under a specially prepared gauze tent, open hives of bees showing the contents of hives, including drones, workers, the queen bee, etc. When the weather is suitable he will also make a public exhibition of having an entire swarm of bees cluster and hang on his arm and give brief lectures, explaining the methods pursued. Specimens of queen cells, combs, pollen and honey in cells, drone and worker comb and section honey in all stages will be shown in an adjoining tent, also the ancient and modern methods of keeping bees. This exhibit will attract those who would like to see bees as they can be handled by those who understand them. This exhibit will be of particular interest to lovers of nature and to those who like to see the advancement and progress made in any industry, and it will be of practical value to those who wish to know the way to judge honey, the way to keep it, and to those who want to see the best way to produce honey and manage bees.

Entries for all live stock and dairy produce close with Manager Hill, 82 King street east, Toronto, on Monday, August 6th.

The honey season has been very fair in Muskoka. The spring opened up very nicely. Took bees out of cellar April 5th, when they gathered pollen.

MRS. W. H. GREENE,
Muskoka, Ont.

Wintering.

This is my first year with bees. Will have eight colonies to winter, and intend building a place 3 feet underground and 3 or 4 feet above ground. I would like to know if two walls of matched boards filled in with sawdust will keep out frosts, and what thickness of sawdust between walls is necessary, and need the sawdust



C. EDMONDSON,
Secretary Brant Bee-Keepers' Association

be dry? An answer in C. B. J. will greatly oblige.

C. A. Jones.

I am in receipt of your card, and in reply would say that the sawdust double-walled houses partly above ground have proved very unsatisfactory. There may be some at present in use, but I know of quite a few that have been abandoned. If you can make the cellar below ground, it will keep a much more even temperature, and would have a certain amount of warmth transmitted from the earth about the

cellar. If the ground is so situated that you cannot dig beyond a certain depth, on account of water, or if you have rocks, and do not want to go to the expense of blasting, I would cover the top with the earth. If you are compelled for any reason, to use the sawdust, I would certainly have it dry and packed in well, and if you can arrange it, leave a space, so that you can pound it down from time to time. I would use tar paper or felt paper under the boards, on the inside and outside.

Trusting this will give you the information desired,

I am,

Very truly yours,

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

A Skillful Bee-Keeper's System
Reviewed.

—THE FARMERS' ADVOCATE.

Bee-keeping, as an industry, or even as an adjunct to farming or other occupation, is not as general in a country so favorable to it as ours as its advantages would seem to warrant. True, it is an occupation for persons of leisure, but on a farm where the family comprises several members, a few colonies would be found to give very little trouble, and furnish an article of food which would be not only a relish but a healthy daily adjunct of diet. Going farther, we may state from experience that after the habits of the bees are commenced to be understood, and therefore the methods of manipulating them mastered, they become a source of real interest and pleasure, and if gone into on an extended and thorough scale, a means of considerable revenue. If one has the qualifications of being cautious, observing and prompt, bee-keeping can be engaged in without fear of failure, and to persons who swell up and become seriously affected with the stings, it may be some comfort to know that after a few stings, the system becomes inoculated against the effects of the poison, when a prod from an angry bee becomes of little more account than a mosquito bite.

The management of an apiary is not a difficult matter, and needs very little out-

lay to commence with. One handy with tools can make the hives and nearly all their attachments. True, no matter how full instructions are received, or how many bee books are read, many points will have to be picked up by experience and observation, so that to succeed in getting the most from the colonies, observation, perception and invention play an important part. These and many other necessary qualifications have assisted the very successful apiarist and proprietor of "Evergreen Farm" and bee yard, Mr. S. T. Pettit, of Elgin County, who now at the end of twenty-five years of studious experience is looked upon by the more advanced bee-keepers of Canada and the United States as one of the first authorities on apiculture. On July 20th we spent most of the day with Mr. Pettit, who, with his son, was busy taking off the last of this season's extracting. This will be finished in a few days, when the fine harvest of fat comb sections will be removed. By observation and conversation we gathered many important features of Mr. Pettit's system, which we will endeavor to give to our readers.

COMB HONEY THE SPECIALTY.

Mr. Pettit, like most advanced beekeepers, makes a specialty of comb honey production. The proportion taken is largely governed by the extent of the swarming, as new swarms are better suited to comb-honey production than those that have come out from winter quarters. This year swarming has been under the average, and, as a result, Mr. Pettit has only about one-third of his hives supplied with comb-section supers. The spring is usually commenced with 75 to 80 colonies, which come out in vigorous condition from the cellar. The hives used are Mr. Pettit's own invention, having brood frames 9 inches deep and 14½ inches long, and extracting combs 14 inches deep and of the same length as the brood frames. The hives are built to hold 12 frames. When the bees are first brought out in spring they are confined to the brood-chamber until maple blossom commences. Shallow supers are then put on, and the brood is spread in the brood-chamber by placing the centre frames, which contain most brood, on the outside, and exchanging for them the outside frames, which contain more or less honey. This is uncapped, so that the bees can readily remove it to the super, leaving room for the queen to lay in these combs when emptied. This exchanged position of frames is only safe when the bees are

sufficiently numerous and strong to keep the outside frames of brood warm. When clover honey-flow commences, the strongest colonies are given comb-supers in place of the shallow supers first put on, but the others are given extracting supers 14 inches deep. Usually two comb-honey supers, each holding 36 sections, are put on, but when the strength of the colonies and copiousness of honey-flow will warrant it, three supers, or 108 sections, are out on. Sometimes the third super is added after the others have become filled or nearly so. At the time of our visit nearly half of the comb-honey-producing colonies had three supers, which in most cases contained about 14 ounces of beautiful, well-capped honey per section.

EXTRACTING HONEY.

Mr. Pettit has his own method of taking off extracting honey. As soon as the frames become filled the first time in the season, the six fullest frames are selected out of each hive, and the remaining six are shoved to one side, and empty frames placed in the half of the super. The date and side removed are written on the back of the hive, and as soon as full and capped the other side is extracted. By this means the bees are not delayed for a moment and the work of extracting is facilitated. This is the means adopted till the last extraction (which was in operation at the time of our visit), when all the combs are exchanged for empties. It is remarkable the amount of honey these bees are made to produce, viz.: from 150 to 160 pounds per colony of extracted honey. Mr. Pettit has an ingenious and simple method of removing the full combs. When it is desired to remove six frames, as is the custom early in the season, the hive cloth is stripped off just the width of the six frames, a few puffs of smoke sends the bees down, when the frames are quickly lifted out and the empty ones placed in before the bees have commenced to return. The cloth and cushion are replaced with very little disturbance to the bees. As the full combs are lifted out they are each given a shake before the hive and then stood up at the back of the hive till the cover is put on and they are ready to be taken to the extracting room. The few remaining bees, which by this time feel lost and lonesome, are swept off with a feather, and all is over in very little more than a minute, with no commotion, no stinging, and no chance for robbing. The extracting is done by a large extractor which handles four frames at once.

The empty frames last put on continue

to receive a little honey throughout the remainder of the season till brood-rearing has ceased, about the middle of September, when the supers are all removed. This is done throughout the whole yard as nearly as possible at the same time. Each super is left uncovered and placed on the ground a few feet in front of the hive from which it was taken, and which is now covered with cloth cushion and hive cover. This sets the entire working population in active service carrying the honey into the brood chambers for winter stores.

True, a big commotion is set up, but practically each swarm is attending to its

by allowing the entrance to extend clear across the hive, and by raising the front an inch and a quarter above the bottom or floor, by a wedge on either side of the entrance. This allows the bees to enter the hive the full width, and compels them to walk up sides or back of the hive, so that they always fill the outside frames first instead of last, as is the case with the narrow entrance. Another means to this end with comb sections is to create a bee space between the outside comb sections and the walls by inserting a perforated divider held out from the wall by tiny blocks of wood a bee space wide. This



Mr. and Mrs. Kelly.

APIARY OF GOOLD, SHAPLEY & MUIR CO., LIMITED, AT THE FARM OF WESLEY KELLY, RANELAGH, ONT.

own case, and no evil results from robbing or any other cause. About the end of September the hives are examined to see what stores are needed, and feeding is proceeded with as it is deemed necessary. The food given consists of four-fifths granulated sugar and one-fifth honey. It is calculated to allow each colony 30 pounds of stores for winter months.

SOME NICE POINTS IN MR. PETTIT'S SYSTEM.

Bee-keepers know generally how difficult it is to have the outside, either comb or extracting, frames as well filled as those in the center of the super. Mr. Pettit has quite overcome this difficulty

allows the bees to pass up and down freely, which they do the same as between the sections, and holds more bees at the outside of the outside sections. Another advantage afforded by the wide and deep entrance is the ventilation and comfort afforded the bees, especially in hot weather. Undue swarming is thus prevented. The extracting-honey hives are ventilated at the top at back, but no top ventilation is given the comb-honey hives, except for a few days after a new swarm is hived, when it is necessary to afford them comfort in order to commence them working at an early date. This is usually permanently closed up on a cool evening when all have settled down.

Another practice with a newly-hived swarm is to substitute two frames on either side of the brood chamber for dummies, so as to contract the brood-chamber and get the bees working in the sections above. Late in the season six dummies, or three on either side, are inserted, but it requires the judgment of an experienced bee-master to manipulate these nice points.

Regarding the capture of swarms, Mr. Pettit always keeps his queens clipped, so that they are not able to take flight with the swarm, but commonly fall on the ground in front of the hive. She is picked up and placed in a cage which is placed in the entrance of a new hive, which takes the place of the old one, which is moved about two feet back and left there about six days. As soon as the issuing swarm find their queen is not with them they return to the old stand, but new hive, find their queen, and at once proceed to occupy the hive. Some of these ingenious methods may be used in general practice, but not a few of the most valued of them originated with Mr. Pettit, who delights in giving to the bee-keeping world the benefits of his experience and invention.

Bee-Keeping in Australia.

We have had a good season. I commenced extracting the first of September, with 44 colonies. The spring opened out well. There were two months of hot weather in midsummer, which slackened work for a time. I finished extracting the first of April; increased my apiary to 75 colonies, and extracted 19,300 lbs. honey and 180 lbs. wax. I sell my honey at from 3 to 3½ pence per pound. I make my own hives, with thirteen bars in the bottom and twelve in the top; all full-size Langstroth, with queen excluder between top and bottom. I place my hives on bricks on the ground, and do not require to move them at any time of the year. My bees have been working very well during the winter. I expect to extract about a ton of honey in the spring, (about the middle of August).

There is every prospect of another good season. If you can send queens to Australia and guarantee safe delivery, please send me two young tested queens by return mail. I leave the choice to you; I want good honey-gathering bees. The most of the hives and frames used are imported from America. I find the im-

ported hives too small for my district, as small hives increase swarming.

Geo. F. BRAY,
New South Wales,
Australia.

July 1st, 1898.

Kind Words from Customers.

The queens I received from you last year have proved very satisfactory, and their daughters are second to none in my apiary.
Belmont, July 2nd, 1898. S. T. Pettit.

Your goods are the best I ever had.
Bobcaygeon, July 30th, 1898. J. D. Oliver.

Queens arrived safely; they were introduced in about 14 hours. Your cages are complete—the best I have ever seen.
South Augusta, Ont., July 23, '98. Lt.-Col. Checkley.

Now that they are filled, I like the new sections much better than the old style with closed corners. The bees fill them much better, and they look nicer.
Lorraine, Ont., July 23rd, 1898. Thos. Christian.

Comb foundation received; I am well satisfied with it.
Clinton, Ont. J. H. Dodd.

I have seen quite a lot of different makes of hives, and have bought hives from the American side, but yours are the best and handiest I have seen yet.
Leeds, Ont. George Guild.

I received the goods in excellent condition. The foundation is first-class.
Clarence, Ont., June 15th, 1898. George Clark.

The hives I got from you, through Mr. Corbet, are the finest hives I have ever seen.
Wolfe Island, July 18, 1898. W. G. Woodman.

This make (the Weed) of foundation I know does not sag like other makes, but yet very hot spell will bring down anything in the comb line, so send me a 1-lb. spool of tinned wire.
Poole, Ont., June 23rd, 1898. D. Chalmers.

The goods are in very good shape. The section foundation is very nice.
Essex, Ont., June 30th, 1898. N. H. Burke.

My neighbors think the foundation from Goid, Shapley & Muir Co. is so much nicer than that from other places, they want me to sell them some of mine. Can you supply more?
Perth Co., Ont., July 1st, 1898. Christian Rossman.

Comb foundation received in excellent condition. It is of excellent quality. Please accept thanks for promptness.
Richview, June 29, 1898. Thos. Ramage.

Your extractor honey knife and perforated metal to hand. I am well pleased with the goods and the way they were shipped.
Northumberland, Ont., July 18, '98. Alfred Bedoe.

We buy your goods not because they are the cheapest, but the best.
Pleasant Vale, New Brunswick. Colpitt Bros.

The bees received. I am more than satisfied with them. The quality and quantity are satisfactory. They swarmed on Saturday. You do as you advertise, and no mistake.
Dundas, June 6th, 1898. David Towns.

Eighteenth Annual Meeting

OF THE ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.



Continued.

Mr. Hall—I think the market question is the most difficult one to come at. What are we going to do with it? As far as a specialist is concerned, I would reckon a specialist a man who went into raising anything, no matter if he has twenty side occupations, if that is his main occupation. If he goes into bee keeping and bee keeping is his main object I should call him a specialist in the apiairy business. Mr. Coggs hall's farm is a side issue, but other men have to do the work; he may be the head. If he has 1200 colonies of bees I should call him an apiarist and a specialist at that. I think specialists in every line are the men that are going to work the cheapest and best.

Mr. McEvoy—I think Mr. Coggs hall is a specialist, for although he had this large farm he did not work it. I was in the honey buildings at the Toronto Exhibition when he sold there one day 23000 pounds to an American that he met there; so that while he produces largely he makes some very large sales; I count him as one of the best bee keepers in America.

Mr. Course—Who did he sell that honey to?

Mr. Darling—He sold it to a man of Wisconsin.

Mr. Course—He says he sells most of his honey to a baker in New York City.

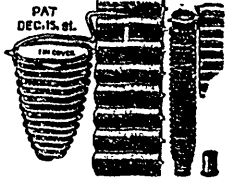
Mr. Gammell—The confectioners do not object to dark honey.

Mr. Dickenson—With regard to what we shall do with our honey, I would like to say a few words. I took the trouble to write to a friend in Liverpool who is a commission merchant and sells a great deal of honey; the reason I did so was because I saw that it would not be long before we would be looking around for a market; it was the year before the hard frost; I had a thousand pounds over after the winter sale. Of course, I anticipated a very large yield the next year, but it was a blank, but nevertheless I have the information that I had written for. He sent me three samples of California honey, graded, with a very lengthy letter

explaining the whole situation, as to what I would have to do in order to compete against that honey, and figuring it up I found that the honey would have to be put on the Liverpool market at seven cents net. Since that there has been, as I say, this year with the hard frost, which made it a blank with me, and I expect it did with a great many bee-keepers. I know that there are some apiarists in this meeting that are worse off than I was. generally speaking it was a hard year for bee-keepers, and therefore it made a scarcity of honey; it left it in that shape that we did not need to look for a market till we got a large flow again; I think we have had a large yield this last year, and I would just say that there is a difficulty; if we should get a yield next year the same as we had this year, that is if the clover and basswood should yield an ordinary yield, we would have an enormous quantity of honey to dispose of in some way. This Liverpool market is in that shape, and I think we will have to compete with sage honey from California. I should judge that possibly that market might fluctuate, that is, the California supply; there would be just that feature about it. The most of the quotations that this gentleman gave me were from shipments that came around by Cape Horn in vessels. Until this honey arrived at Liverpool, there was a little better price to be got; that is when it came by the overland route, which made the freights very high and expensive; but the bulk of the honey we have to compete against is honey that goes around by Cape Horn in sailing vessels; and one year ago in large quantities. Seven cents is I think what it netted at that time.

Mr. Gemmell—Can anyone give us some idea as to what it would cost us to lay it down in Liverpool? While in California I was told by quite a number of bee-keepers that they could deliver honey in Great Britain just as cheap as we could.

(To be continued.)

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ideas will not suit modern methods, however good those ideas might have been, they are

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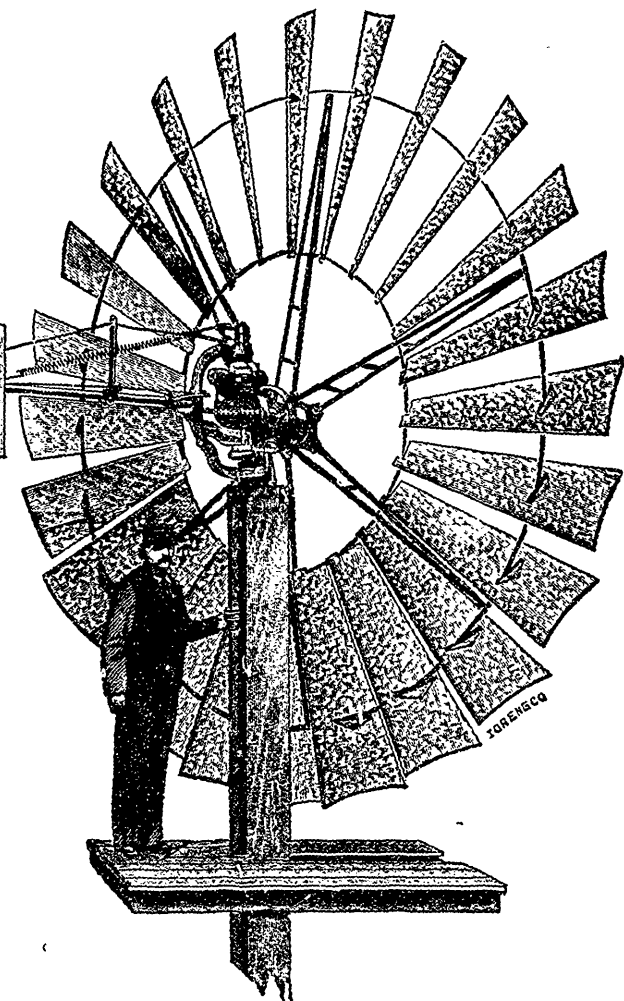
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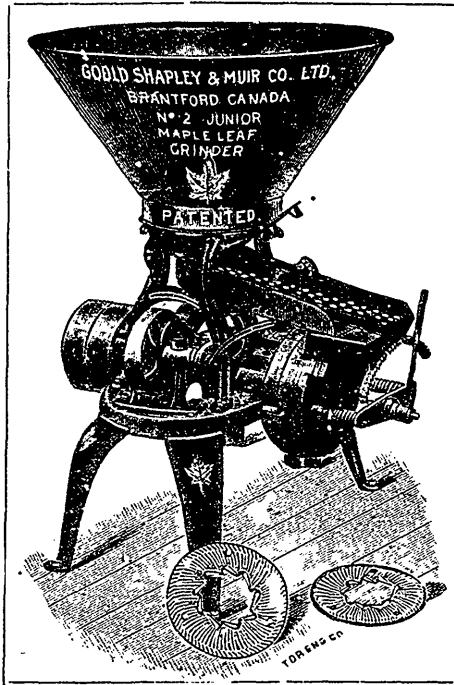
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