

The...  
Canadian Bee Journal

*Devoted to the Interests of the  
Bee Keepers.*

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Ontario

Bee-Keepers' Association

Organized 1880.

Incorporated March 1886

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- Vice-Presidents—First, F. J. Miller, London; second, W. Couse, Streetsville.
- Secretary—P. W. Hodgetts, Department of Agriculture, Toronto.
- Treasurer—Martin Enigh, Holbrook, Ont.

Directors.

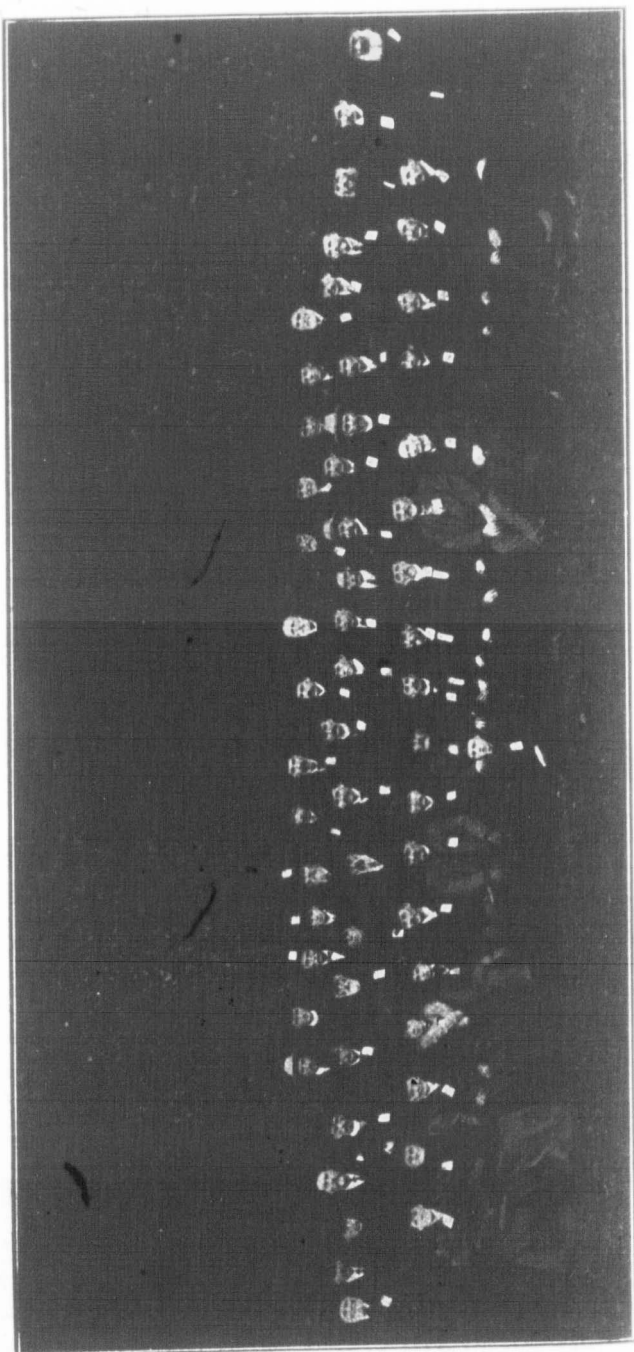
District

- No. 1—W. J. Brown, Chard.
- No. 2—A. A. Ferrier, Renfrew.
- No. 3—M. B. Holmes, Athens.
- No. 4—R. Lowey, Cherry Valley.
- No. 5—J. Storer Lindsay.
- No. 6—Wm. Couse, Streetsville.
- No. 7—J. M. Switzer, Orangeville.
- No. 8—James Armstrong, Cheapside.
- No. 9—R. H. Smith, St. Thomas.
- No. 10—G. A. Deadman, Brussels.
- No. 11—F. J. Miller, London.
- No. 13—Denis Nolan, Newton-Robinson.

O. A. C. Guelph—Prof. Sherman.  
Next place of meeting: Toronto.

INSPECTION OF APIARIES.

Bee-keepers desiring the services of the inspector of apiaries should address their requests to the Hon. Nelson Monteith, Minister of Agriculture, Toronto, giving nearest railway station and distance of apiary from station.



Group of Bee Keepers at Annual Convention, Toronto, November 7th, 8th and 9th, 1906.

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New Series  
Vol. 14, No. 12

## NOTES

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# The Canadian Bee Journal

Published Monthly

New Series  
Vol 14, No. 12

BRANTFORD, CAN., DECEMBER, 1906

Whole No  
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## NOTES AND COMMENTS

By J. L. BYER.

### Amendments to Act Respecting Agricultural Societies.

Our legislators must have had some good reasons for amending the Agricultural and Arts Act; yet to the writer's mind it is a doubtful question if they have improved matters any by so doing. The clause allowing the different societies to regulate by by-law the number of directors and districts to be represented is no doubt a move in the right direction, but the provision that the president and vice-president shall be appointed from and by the directors is, in our humble opinion, simply making worse a former bad system of election. In other words, the clause in question savors too much of despotism, and I feel sure that the rank and file of our Association is not in sympathy with the change. While many reasons could be given, let one illustration suffice for the present. Let us suppose that it is desirable to place a certain man on the executive who is not a director for one of the districts. It is a comparatively easy matter to place his name before the convention when electing officers by our old but antiquated system of election. On the contrary, it is a much more delicate mat-

ter to nominate the same person for director, especially when the secretary reads over the list of counties to be represented and gives the name of the present director, who, by the way, is at the convention. We feel free to thus criticize, believing that any member we may have met will not think that there is "an axe to grind," or that we are in any way hunting for office from a personal standpoint.

### Retail Packages for Honey.

After reading friend Hand's pertinent remarks and queries relative to my remarks in October C. B. J., on the subject of retail packages, I felt—well, as if I would hoist the white flag. Honestly, I had forgotten the amount of honey that friend Hand told me had been sold in his little town, and had no idea that nearly 5,000 pounds had been thus disposed of. No, the 2,000 pounds sold in our village was not all the honey I had a year ago, but, then, I have never made any special effort to work up our home trade. When I do make the effort, Mr. Hand, I am going to get even with you by selling 5,000 pounds in our village, all in tin pails!

### Two Kinds of Foul Brood.

Prof. Phillips, W. Z. Hutchinson, and others, seem to have jumped to the conclusion that the foul brood of Europe is what the Americans characterize as "Black Brood," and that the genuine article that we know as "foul

brood" is an entirely different disease to that which our European cousins have to deal with. While the evidence to hand seems to make it clear that there are two different diseases, yet it seems ridiculous to assume that there is no genuine foul brood in Europe.

In connection with this matter, Mr. C. P. Dadant had an excellent article in a recent issue of the A. B. J., which should prove to the satisfaction of the most doubtful that notwithstanding all claims to the contrary, the "foul brood" of Europe and America are identical. Of much more practical interest to the bee-keeper and scientist is the recent claim that foul brood is not caused by bacillus alvei. On the contrary, said bacillus is found in "black brood," but not in genuine foul brood, the assumption being that Cheshire was mistaken in his diagnosis and had samples of "black brood" instead of foul brood when making his experiments. If bacillus alvei does not cause foul brood, what is the guilty agent? When "doctors disagree the patient dies," so, in the interests of the bee-keeping fraternity, the sooner these things are investigated satisfactorily the better for all concerned.

#### Early Packing For Winter.

When reading your editorial in November C. B. J. relative to Mr. Alpaugh's system of outdoor wintering, was reminded that during friend Alpaugh's visit with me last August, that next to abundance of stores he classed "early packing" as the essential for good wintering. He told me that in different years he had packed three apiaries as follows: First week in October, first week of November, and during the latter part of November. With conditions as nearly identical as possible every time, bees wintered from good to bad in proportion to the time of the year they were

packed. If possible, he would have all colonies ready to be left alone after October 1st. If there is anything in early preparation I should have the benefit of it this year, as "all my bees were packed by October 15th. Another item in connection with outdoor wintering is given by Allen Latham in different journals, and has caused me some anxiety. He states that if colonies have entrances of hives contracted to one side—if the clusters are formed at opposite side of the hive to where entrance is open—that such colonies will perish nearly every time.

As we happened to do that with one yard this fall, have been wondering if Mr. Latham's claims are right or not. At any rate, believe I will change at least part of the hive entrances and note results. Might say, for benefit of any who may not have read Mr. Latham's article, that the reason advanced for mortality in hives with entrance to one side is lack of ventilation, Mr. Latham asserting that if left to themselves bees always cluster directly above and in front of entrance to ensure perfect ventilation of the hive.

#### Cleaning Pollen-clogged Combs.

The plan of cleaning combs of pollen, as given in November C. B. J., viz., soaking the combs in water for three or four days, and then syringing the pollen out, will no doubt work all right, but to my mind it is too slow and laborious a process. It is about on a par with the recipe for killing potato bugs for which a farmer paid one dollar, in response to an advertisement in a local paper. He received by mail two small blocks with the following printed instructions: "Place bug between the two blocks and squeeze; remove bug and proceed as before."

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E. W. Alpaugh's vines keep in then pouring the wax, then used for spring. He than using making vine opinion vine equal to that there has b different in t gar Mr. Alex compared wit ples it has be At any rate, who have be after tasting having the lat Possibly buck an inferior vin experience, car ter; but I pos ings from clov an almost w beautiful flavor jority of testers store where the bled over that vinegars comb

#### Honey in

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## Quality of Honey Vinegar.

E. W. Alexander, in "Gleanings," advises keeping cappings till spring, and then pouring on boiling water to melt the wax, the sweetened water to be used for stimulative feeding in the spring. He thinks this much better than using the sweetened water for making vinegar, and says that in his opinion vinegar thus made is in no way equal to that made from cider. Surely there has been something radically different in the quality of honey vinegar Mr. Alexander has been tasting as compared with the most of the samples it has been our privilege to taste. At any rate, many farmers near us, who have barrels of cider vinegar, after tasting honey vinegar, insist on having the latter article for table use. Possibly buckwheat honey may make an inferior vinegar, as I have had no experience, can only guess at the matter; but I positively know that washings from clover honey cappings make an almost water-white vinegar of beautiful flavor, as judged by the majority of testers; in fact, I know of one store where the sales of the same doubled over that of cider and white wine vinegars combined.

## Honey in Hives in July.

In October 15th "Gleanings," N. E. France, among other things, in an excellent article, says that he wants more than enough honey in the brood-nest early in July than is necessary to winter a colony. Such teaching seems rather unorthodox, but as Mr. France is an extensive and successful bee-keeper, he certainly knows what he is talking about, at least for his locality. One thing is sure, Mr. France must use large hives to have such a condition possible; even then his practice will account to a great extent the claim that bees will store more in the supers when there is no room for honey in the brood-nest. While I suspect this

claim to be correct when running for comb honey, yet with the right bees, no matter how large the hive, for extracted honey, I don't think it makes a particle of difference if there is considerable honey in the brood-nest at the time of the honey flow. Mr. France re-queens each colony every year. While he may be erring on the safe side, I cannot agree with him as to the necessity of this in our locality. Although I use a very large hive, my two-year-old queens invariably give as good satisfaction as those a year younger. Am free to admit, however, that three-year-olds do not always turn out all right, and I seriously contemplate systematic re-queening as practised by Mr. France, only I would lengthen out the life of the queen one year longer, as stated.

Markham, Ont.

## SUGAR SYRUP AND DYSENTERY.

Editor Freudenstein addressed the bee-keepers at Marburg, on the subject of wintering bees. He gave a sort of history of his wintering method, which, in brief, is nothing else but the use of sugar for winter food. From what Mr. F. says, it appears that he has had marvellous success in wintering on sugar. Dysentery is a thing which gives him no trouble. His bees always come out strong in the spring. He removes all the honey if possible, and feeds sugar instead. In one case, having a colony afflicted badly with dysentery, in mid-winter, he brushed the bees off the soiled combs, substituting clean, empty ones; then he fed sugar syrup. The colony became quiet at once, dysentery disappeared, and the bees became healthy and proved a good, profitable swarm the following season. Freudenstein says he will pay any one \$250 who loses a colony with dysentery if he has prepared it according to his instructions.—American Bee Keeper.

*Annual  
Convention*

*Ontario  
Bee keepers  
Association*

The twenty-seventh annual convention of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association was held in the York County Council Chamber, Toronto, November 7, 8 and 9, 1906. The President, Mr. H. G. Sibbald, Claude, Ont., occupied the chair during the sessions, maintaining excellent order and decorum, and exhibiting, as he has done throughout his two years of office, ability, tact and fairness of administration.

#### President's Address.

It is my pleasure to again greet you, to bid you another welcome to the annual meeting of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association, which is, I believe, the twenty-seventh meeting of this Association.

I regret that I cannot congratulate you on having had an abundant harvest at this, our harvest home meeting. Still some words of cheer ought to be said, and I can truthfully and confidently assure you that we are one year nearer a great big crop than we were at this time last year, if this is any consolation. The price of honey has advanced to where it ought always to stay. Honey is a cheap and most wholesome food at 12½ to 15 cents per pound, and at those prices will compare most favorably with other foods.

There is no reason why prices, as at present, should not be maintained. This is Canada's growing time. Thousands are pouring into our country. Cities, towns and villages are growing at a tremendous rate, and it is up to us to supply the people with one of the best of foods—honey.

Bee-keeping in the past has been marked by progress. No industry has made more rapid strides, and still we are going ahead. Appliances, devices, methods, are being adapted and used to enable the bee-keeper to keep more bees, produce more honey and live comfortably, and with a dignity becoming our most interesting occupation.

Our Association should have due credit for this advancement, being an educator of no mean proportion, having secured laws that have saved the industry from destruction. Along this line will come before you an announcement from the Department of Agriculture, intimating that our grant for the suppression of foul brood is to be doubled, showing also that a deep interest is being taken in our industry, and this Association by the Hon. Nelson Monteith and Prof. C. C. James, his deputy Minister.

Since our last meeting the Foul Brood act has been amended, and there are some other things I would like to say in this connection. The Act, as amended, takes away from the Association the right to appoint and the right to direct the inspector. That is now in the hands of the Department of Agriculture. This was not done in an arbitrary way at all. A committee consisting of Mr. Couse, Mr. Gemmell, Mr. Miller and myself, were invited to interview the Minister, and we also considered that it would be better if such a step were taken. The inconsistency of the old plan was shown up very plainly—the president of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association had the directing of the inspector and the Department of Apiculture had the paying. The Department thought that the directing and paying ought to be both done by the Association or both done by the Department, and we thought that as the President changes from year to year, it would be better if the

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Department were to take it over. The amendments, as recommended by our Association last year, were taken into consideration, and the new Act was based, I think, on these recommendations. They are not just as we sent them in; perhaps they are better. We will find that out in the working of the new Act.

In regard to the Horticulture Exhibition, I may say they are doing a lot of hard work on that exhibition, and our Association is incorporated with them, and it has been my duty to come to Toronto and meet the other directors and the presidents and the Mayor of the city. We met the Eastern Passenger Association, and the outcome of that meeting was that we obtained single-fare rate for a full week and two days, in which you can come from any part of the Province to Toronto at single-fare rate. It was by means of this Association co-operating with other Associations that we were able to get that advantage. (Applause.)

Mr. J. D. Evans, Islington—As a member of the Municipal Council of York, and having sat around here for 27 years, I am charged by the Warden to welcome this Association to our building. We hoped to have you with us last year, and I made the proposition that you should come, but you did not see your way clear to do so. We are glad to have you this year, and we hope that for many years in the future the bee-keepers will meet in our old historic hall. I want to suggest that the President take the Warden's chair and sit on our throne. It is held sacred by many glorious associations, for many eminent men have sat there. I know that our President will preside with dignity. I know he is not eligible to the wardenship of the County of York, but I know that he will preside with dignity and with pleasure to ourselves.

The Chairman—It is my modesty that keeps me down here, and I think I would feel more at home on the same level with the others.

At this point the President was escorted to the Warden's chair by Mr. Evans and the Secretary.

The Chairman—I am sure we are all grateful to the County of York for placing this comfortable and commodious hall at our disposal. The reason we did not come here last year was not because we did not appreciate the offer. It was represented to us that the other associations were going to meet in a building near Massey Hall that was being provided for us at that time. We did not know anything about the place, or we certainly would have come to this excellent meeting-place.

I will now call upon Mr. Smith to open the discussion on the President's address.

Mr. R. H. Smith, St. Thomas—Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, we must congratulate ourselves in having a better place for our meeting. The reason we took the other hall last year was because we judged it from the outside first and on the inside afterwards. We ought to be very grateful we have such a good place to meet in this time. Our President said this was the 27th annual meeting of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association. I was one of the members present at the first meeting held in the city hall. There have been many changes. We have made advance in many ways, but not as many advances as I would like to see. Beekeeping as I found it when I joined the Association has not advanced as far as it should, particularly among the farmers. We still find first-class honey put on the market in a very crude state by the farmers, and it is a very short-sighted policy on their part. If they would only take more interest in bee-keeping and join the



local associations, they could be very much enlightened, not only for their own benefit, but for the benefit of bee-keeping generally. Your directors have been trying to follow the suggestions that Mr. Pettit gave in his paper last year, of "how to make the Ontario Association more useful," and many other things suggested, so that the local associations might be much more extended or made more useful by making them members of the Ontario Association, if they wish, by paying a little extra fee. A similar line to that which is being followed in the National Association in the United States. We hope in this way to create a greater interest.

I am sorry to say that we cannot congratulate ourselves on having a large crop of honey this year; in fact, I believe it is one of the lightest crops we have had for ten years. I do not remember a time when we have had such a light crop all over the Province. I have known partial failures in other years, when there has been a light crop in the West and a better one in the East, but this year it seems to be generally light all over. The honey on exhibition is particularly fine for this season. I don't remember ever seeing any better, and the prospects are that we will realize better prices. There is no reason that the price may be lower in the near future. Other agricultural products have advanced, and honey is just as valuable as any of them. We have a growing market; it was thought at one time we would need to cultivate British markets, but we have a market right at home that we cannot supply. I am very pleased to be with you again. I do not know that I can add very much to what the President has said. (Applause.)

The President—The discussion is open, if any one else desires to speak to it.

Mr. Holtermann—There is just one point that Mr. Smith spoke of that has impressed me, that was in connection with the prices of honey. I do not think it would be a desirable thing for honey to remain at the price it is at the present time, from year to year. If we had a larger crop we could afford to sell for a great deal less money. For years everything we required for a living and for supplies and so on increased in value but honey remained at just about the same price. I think that it is within the power of the beekeepers to raise the price of honey higher than it has been for the last two or three years. If the quality is good, people will be willing to buy it.

Mr. Brown—I find the people in Toronto are willing to give a good price for a good article, if it is put up in a proper manner.

Mr. McEvoy—This association gets \$500 a year and I think it would pay to spend \$200 of that in paying freight, so as to ship the honey out of this country. Mr. Deadman is one of our largest shippers and he could pay a half cent more a pound if the government would pay the freight.

The Chairman—I do not think it would be any use for us to spend the grant in that way. One man wrote to the Honey Crop Committee and said he got a half cent more than he did the year before and another man wrote and said he would have been willing to sell his honey for 8 cents, if it had not been for the committee's advice, and he sold it for 10 cents. The committee regret that they cannot have more reports; it would help the work wonderfully if every bee-keeper would send in reports. That committee work is costing me something. I was in a store the other day where I had been selling for two years, they said they were right out of honey, but the proprietor was not in, and I had better 'phone him about 5

o'clock and get an order said, "are you something in Aren't you the mittee that com I explained to said: "A farm me one thousand eight and a then he got a tee saying if he would no I will have you and have an the trust." I about that, but done anything tomer, however honey I have g John Timber send the honey we get an off not have enough orders for over supply.

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o'clock and they were sure I would get an order. When I telephoned he said, "are you not a sort of trust or something in that association of yours? Aren't you the president of the committee that controls the price of honey?" I explained to him how it was, and he said: "A farmer came in here and sold me one thousand pounds of honey for eight and a half cents a pound and then he got a letter from your committee saying it was worth 10c and he would not give me the honey I will have you down in the police court and have an investigation and break the trust." I told him I was sorry about that, but I did not think we had done anything wrong. I lost a customer, however, but I can sell all the honey I have got.

John Timbers—Is it necessary to send the honey out of the country? If we get an off year like this, we will not have enough. I have refused mail orders for over 2,000 lbs. that I cannot supply.

Mr. McEvoy—Next year we may get a good crop and you would not like to sell it at six and half or six.

Mr. Timbers—It is not necessary.

Mr. McEvoy—If we can ship a lot off it will be all the better for you.

Mr. Evans—It seems to me the lesson of a good crop is that when there is a low crop, the bee-keeper should keep his honey and pack it away. Honey keeps from year to year, and every four or five years there is a failure, and that year absorbs all the surplus stock.

Mr. R. H. Smith—I had a little experience trying to get a member to join the Honey Exchange. A bee-keeper living west of us produces about 50 lbs, and I asked if he would not join the Honey Exchange and he said No, my father belongs to the church, and would not think of anything of the kind."

Mr. Holtermann—I saw a letter this year written by a government official, who stated that they wanted honey for a certain exhibition which was going to be held, and he stated that he understood that dealers had bought up the crop and were forcing the price up, and that the honey had to be got and they had to pay whatever price was to be paid. Another gentleman of a long business experience, said to me: "Is not this a combine, you had better be very careful." I told him that it was not a combine.

The Chairman—We do not attempt to control prices, we simply advise our members what we think our honey is worth, and if they want to sell it at less than that price they can do so.

Mr. John Newton—This has been a great help to bee-keepers. I know several that have held their crop after they got the report. I do not think the people in general look upon it as a trust. I know it will have a tendency to keep up the price. A man who is shipping out, always calculates that he is making enough out of the shipment to pay him the difference in the freight rates. It has paid me to ship out to the west and I am perfectly willing to pay the freight rates. I think the funds of the society have been used in the best interests of the bee-keepers of Ontario.

M. B. Holmes—There has certainly been good and useful work done for the bee-keepers of this province, in getting out this report. It has always been my wish, however, that this report should be issued as a private bulletin, to bee-keepers only, and if at all possible, it should not find its way into public print. I think that we should exercise the greatest care to have our honey A1 quality, and the fact that it is A1, should be kept to the front always. If we get any inferior honey, we

should not sell it to inexperienced people, who do not understand the different qualities. We should put inferior honey up in barrels and sell it to manufacturers.

G. A. Deadman (Brussels)—I think the report is intended for the bee-keepers only. I have found that it makes it more difficult to buy honey. Last year I bought honey cheaper in winter time, than I could in the fall. It would be well for the committee to act with caution, because, if the price is too high, the bee-keeper holds it, and then if he finds that he cannot get the price he will not be satisfied.

John Newton (Thamesford)—I am not in favor of keeping the price to bee-keepers in general. I was very much taken up with the article that appeared in The Globe after the report of the exchange. Several of the business men speaking to me, seemed to be ready to buy and to take in the situation at once. They were convinced that there was not much honey in the market and they were willing to take the honey at the bee-keepers' price.

The Chairman—I will call upon Mr. Couse to explain the matter for the committee.

Mr. Couse (Streetsville)—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen—The longer I have been on this committee the more confidence I have in it. The price set may be a cent or half a cent either way, but the committee are generally correct. Mr. Newton has just spoken with reference to the report in the papers. Mr. Craig and myself went to the offices. We said, we are here for no purpose but what is right. We showed them the reports we got from all over the province, and we did not want to hide that from anybody. We wanted to give it to the people, and we gave it to The Globe and The Mail and Empire, and that report went out, and it was correct, and the bee-keepers have received the price that the committee suggested.

We do not bind anybody to keep their honey; we felt that this price ought to be obtained; this is not a combine, but it is a proper thing to do. A seed firm in Chicago have a man who goes all over the country to get crop returns, and we have a perfect right to do the same kind of thing. When we get a report from the bee-men we know fairly well the kind of honey that is in the province. I think the work of the committee has been very beneficial all the way through. (Hear, hear.) We do not pretend to be perfect.

Mr. McEvoy—The price is partly fixed by the outside world. They can lay down honey from Jamaica for 7½c. I would like to know where this comes from, or what it is, because I know that the logwood honey from Jamaica was a failure. They have it in Hamilton.

Mr. Holtermann—It is no good.

Mr. McEvoy—Yes, it is good.

Mr. R. H. Smith—It is not last year's crop?

Mr. McEvoy—I do not know that it is there now.

Mr. Couse—Buckwheat honey is better than that.

Mr. Holtermann—Mr. McEvoy is perfectly right, you will get logwood honey for that price, but I am not afraid of it in competition with our Canadian honey at considerably less than the Canadian price.

Mrs. Scott—I was going to suggest that this Jamaica honey was not worth more than 6c, and if you buy it at 7½c it does not effect our good honey; honey sells upon its merits. I think we should send this report to bee-keepers outside our association. These are the men that generally break the market down.

Mr. Grosjean—The demand generally rules the price. The honey exchange is not doing any more than trying to find what the produce of the country

is and they bee-keepers price should than what try does. I fruit; apple and find out apple crop of peas, and I am very pr change has t I hope they in smaller be long to the O great pleasu thanks to the the good the and hope the ture.

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Mr. Holtern way that can greater activit The Chairm in putting it b it would reac We have upw this associatio four thousand vince. So far think it was al papers.

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is and they are only giving advice to bee-keepers and they suggest what the price should be and this is not more than what the government of the country does. I gave a monthly report on fruit; apple buyers combine together and find out what the prospects of the apple crop is when they are the size of peas, and they set a price later on. I am very proud of what the honey exchange has been doing in the past, and I hope they will follow it up and get in smaller bee-keepers who do not belong to the Ontario Association. I have great pleasure in moving a vote of thanks to the bee-keepers' exchange for the good they have done in the past, and hope they will continue in the future.

Mr. Chrysler—I second that motion.

Mr. Kerby—I find the greatest drawback in my part of the country is the farmer bee-keeper. When they get any honey, they run into town, and dispose of it at a low price, and I think it would be well if we could find some means of reaching these people.

Mr. Holtermann—There is only one way that can be done, and that is by greater activity of local organizations.

The Chairman—I may say our object in putting it in the papers was so that it would reach the small bee-keeper. We have upwards of 200 members in this association, and there are three or four thousand bee-keepers in the province. So far as I am concerned, I think it was all right to have it in the papers.

The motion was put to the meeting and was carried.

The Chairman—We are glad you are all pleased with the work of the committee, that is all we want.

I will now call for the paper by Mr. U. H. Bowen, Niagara Falls on Production of comb honey.

In the absence of Mr. Bowen his paper was read by Mr. Pettit:

## THE PRODUCTION OF COMB HONEY.

The essential requisites for the production of comb honey are a good honey flow, strong colonies of bees, convenient hives, and an apirist who understands handling the bees and hives so as to take advantage of the flow of nectar.

The first of these requisites is beyond our control except that we should take care to locate our apiaries where there is usually an abundance of nectar secreting plants and trees, such as clover, basswood, etc. In my location clover is the only source of surplus honey.

The strength of the colony of bees depends largely upon the care it gets after being taken from its winter quarters. A colony that has wintered well, and has a good queen and an ample supply of food, will usually be in good condition for the harvest when it comes.

The hive should be sufficiently large to contain a good supply of honey and yet leave room for all the brood a good queen can produce. It should be easily enlarged or contracted as the occasion may require. The hive I use holds eight Langstroth frames in the brood chamber, which is large enough for the greater part of the year. In the spring, when a colony is building up rapidly and needs more room, I enlarge the hive by adding a half-story super containing eight frames, five inches in depth, being equal to five Langstroth frames, thus increasing the capacity of the brood chamber to thirteen frames.

When the harvest is at hand and the hive overflowing with bees put on a super of sections. If the colony is in a one-and-a-half story hive remove the half story, making sure that the queen is in the lower brood cham-

(Continued on Page 278)



# THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

Devoted to the Interest of Bee-keepers

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Editor, W. J. Craig.

December, 1906.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Brant and adjoining counties bee-keepers are arranging for their annual convention, to be held in the City Hall, Brantford, January 29th, 30th and 31st, commencing with the evening session on January 29th. Mr. S. D. House, of Camillus, N.Y., has kindly consented to be present. Mr. House, while perhaps not so widely known as some, is one of the leading bee-keepers of the United States, and most successful as a producer of comb honey, with whose personality and system of management it will be a privilege to become acquainted. We expect also to have with us Mr. O. L. Hershiser of Buffalo, N.Y., and probably others from across the border. We shall also expect leading lights in apiculture from our own Province, all tending toward the continued success of what has hitherto been a most successful gathering of bee-keepers. As heretofore, our programme will be exclusively along the line of management, improving of quality and marketing of honey. Reserve these dates and for further information write the Secretary of Brant County Bee-keepers' Association, W. J. Craig, Brantford, Ont.

The meeting of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association, November 7 to 9, deserves a place amongst the most suc-

cessful and satisfactory of that organization. We believe we have now arrived at a point where good and lasting work can be done, judging from the unanimity of the officers and members. The Government amendments to the Agricultural and Arts Act made it necessary to adjust some of the Association by-laws in conformity therewith, among these the appointing of the President and Vice-Presidents by the Directors from among themselves rather than the open meeting of the Association. This is criticized by Mr. J. L. Byer in his notes in this issue, but, considering the matter broadly, we cannot see any reasonable objection to the arrangement. It is the duty of the Association to elect their Directors from among the best and most representative men from the districts. We need not allow them to become "fix-tures." Let them be like friend Byers' queens—changed at least in two years. After all, that which would simplify the whole system and guard against these errors, would be to have district organizations, and these organizations recommend for nomination suitable persons to represent them as Directors. The Association's amendments to the by-laws relative to affiliated societies now make provision that a membership fee of \$1.00 in the local society includes membership in the Ontario Association, half of the fee going to the Ontario. This will no doubt be an encouragement to membership in local societies, as well as increasing the membership of the provincial. Another important change in this connection is that in order to affiliate, not less than ten members of the local society are to be members of the Ontario.

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ment of Agriculture, whose photo we have pleasure in presenting in this issue, has been appointed Secretary.

The passing of the Secretaryship to the Department of Agriculture will no doubt be the best arrangement possible for the Association, and in this falling into line with the other agricultural societies. The fact of the directing or the inspectors of apiaries being in the hands of the Department makes it almost essential. Secretary Couse discharged his duty faithfully and well for upward of 20 years, and deserved every word of the hearty vote of thanks accorded by the Association on his retirement.



Much praise is due the department of Agriculture for the way the best interests of the bee-keepers have been considered, and the kindly, tactful and efficient way in which its worthy Minister, the Hon. Nelson Monteith, has dealt with the matters laid before his department. The administration of the Foul Brood act has been a thorn in the flesh for many years, and "a bone of contention" at almost every annual meeting. Amendments were agreed upon at the convention a year ago making certain changes that were deemed advisable, and provision for more inspectors to carry out the work. In the early months of the present year the executive of the Association, with Mr. F. A. Gemmill were called to the Department for a consultation and with the result that a new Act was framed and passed whereby the appointing and directing of the inspectors was placed exclusively in the hands of the Minister of Agriculture and under the direct control of the Department. The Department now lays before the Association their proposal to divide the province into six districts with an inspector for each. The districts to be as follows:

1. Lennox, Addington, Frontenac and East.
2. Victoria, Peterboro, Northumber-

land, Durham, Prince Edward and Hastings.

3. York, Peel, Simcoe, Dufferin and Ontario.

4. Wellington, Waterloo, Perth, Huron, Bruce and Grey.

5. Norfolk, Brant, Oxford, Elgin, Essex, Kent, Lambton and Middlesex.

6. Wentworth, Lincoln, Welland and Haldimand.

The Department considers that it will be quite practicable to secure a good man for each one of these districts. In making the selection the Minister will naturally consult with the officers of the Association, as it is his desire to appoint men who are well informed and would carry on the work with the approval of the Society. He suggests that the former Inspector, Mr. McEvoy, be retained for No. 6, which is in the vicinity of his own home, and that he be referred to on any points which might come up in connection with disputes in other districts. The Minister is inclined to think that in covering the field as above suggested, traveling expenses, etc., would be lessened, and that a total appropriation of \$1,200 would be sufficient for the work. The annual expenditure for the purpose of inspection during the last five years—1901-1905 inclusive—has averaged \$666.



A letter from the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Toronto, requests us to announce to the readers of The Canadian Bee Journal that they have a considerable number of back reports of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association on hand at the Department, and if any one desires complete sets, they would be pleased to send them so far as the supply lasts. Address the Department of Agriculture, Toronto.

## ANNUAL CONVENTION

(Continued from Page 276)

ber, and put on a queen excluder to keep her there. Put on the sections and on top of them the half-story super that was on the hive in the first place. The entrance should be the full width of the hive and about an inch deep during the harvest. After the bees are nicely started in the sections the super of shallow frames may be taken away and another super of sections put on in its place.

About this time the colony will be preparing to swarm. The swarming impulse is not the great misfortune that it is often represented to be. The choicest comb honey is usually produced by the colonies that have swarmed either naturally or otherwise. But the swarming must be controlled and I know of no better plan than the "shook" swarming. Shake the bees into a new hive containing five frames filled with wired foundation or starters as you prefer (my preference is the wired foundation) and one frame of comb to catch the pollen. If that frame of comb contains a quantity of unsealed brood no harm will be done. Put in enough dummies to fill out the hive. Set the new hive on the old stand with an empty hive body below the brood chamber. This empty body will give the bees room to cluster, and they are not likely to swarm out next day as they probably would do without it. It should be removed after the second or third day. In shaking the bees I prefer to shake all the bees and give the brood to some other colony to take care of. The sections should be taken from the old hive and placed on the new one.

Where shall we put the sections that we add to a hive that has one or

more supers on? And how many supers should we have on a hive at one time? I have no fixed rule for putting on sections. It is largely a matter of judgment for what is all right in one case may be all wrong in another. I usually put the second super on the top of the first, leaving it there till I think it is safe to put it below without danger of the bees stopping work in the first one. The third super is put on top with No. 1 next and No. 2 below No. 1, and so on, crowding, if anything, the lower supers and keeping an empty one on top in reserve. It is there if needed and if not needed it does no harm.

The sections and foundation we use are two important items in the production of comb honey. The plain or no-beeway section with the fence separator is much superior to the old style beeway section and plain wood of tin separator. I have given both kinds a thorough trial and am decidedly in favor of the no-beeway section. The sections should be so placed in the super that there will be a fence separator between the outside rows of sections and sides of the super, leaving a passageway for the bees on each side, which results in the outside rows of sections being nearly if not quite as well filled as the middle ones and in about the same time, sometimes sooner. I have taken off supers of sections where the only unfinished sections were in the centre rows. Use full-sized sheet of extra thin foundation in the sections. The thinnest foundation is the best and most economical to use. A section that is taller than it is wide is better than a square one. The tall sections sell more readily and are preferred by dealers.

When removing honey from the very convenient is necessary to have each hive. A drive most of to be taken off quickly removed at the side of the cape board un hours they will honey should be place if possible my house for keep it dry with ing natural gas or less every d there. If there in the combs it to fumigate co The Italian b good satisfaction duction as a cro and the black b manner in which that of the hybrid At the close c large the brood capacity again.

After having s comb honey do shod methods of honey up in neat a dozen sections thoroughly clean spoils and carefull spent in this wor ably spent.

The Chairman—ask Mr. Pettit q familiar with the Q.—What is the way section; whic 1-3 or 1 1-2 inc A.—I have had no-bee-way section them myself.

When removing the filled supers of honey from the hives bee escapes are very convenient, but it is not necessary to have an escape board for each hive. A few puffs of smoke will drive most of the bees out of the super to be taken off, and then it should be quickly removed. Pile the supers up at the side of the apiary with an escape board underneath and in a few hours they will be free from bees. The honey should be stored in a warm, dry place if possible. I use the cellar under my house for storing the honey and keep it dry with a small stove burning natural gas, which is lighted more or less every day while the honey is there. If there is no unsealed pollen in the combs it will not be necessary to fumigate comb honey.

The Italian bees have not given as good satisfaction in comb honey production as a cross between the Italian and the black bees on account of the manner in which they seal the combs, that of the hybrids being much whiter.

At the close of the honey flow enlarge the brood chamber to its full capacity again.

After having secured a crop of nice comb honey do not spoil it by slipshod methods of marketing. Put the honey up in neat, clean cases, holding a dozen sections each, having first thoroughly cleaned each section of propolis and carefully graded them. Time spent in this work is well and profitably spent.

U. H. BOWEN.

The Chairman—You are at liberty to ask Mr. Pettit questions; he is quite familiar with the subject.

Q.—What is the best size of no-bee-way section; which is the right width, 1 3-8 or 1 1-2 inches?

A.—I have had no experience with no-bee-way sections. I do not care for them myself.

Mrs. Scott—I have tried both, and I think 1 1-2 inches clear section space is probably large enough. If you make it 1 3-8 inches wide and 4 1-2 inches square, it looks small compared to the regular 4 1-4 bee-way section. The 4 by 5 3-8 is the best size of section I have ever come across.

Q.—Can as good comb honey be produced above old comb as above new?

A.—If there is a quick, sharp flow, I do not see very much difference, but if the flow is a little inclined to be slow, and if the sections are liable to be left on a length of time, of course the clean combs or starters will give a cleaner section.

Mr. Brown—Why use dummies instead of full number of frames, and why are fences better than plain separators?

A.—Dummies placed at the outside where is not likely to be brood keep the brood chambers free from honey, and there should be just enough comb for the queens to put the brood in. It is more important that the honey be crowded into the supers producing comb honey than into those producing extracted, because we want the sections finished, and on this account it is better to have as little honey in the brood chamber as possible, and the dummies placed on the outside will crowd them to the super.

Mr. Smith—Do you find the sections as well finished over the dummies?

A.—I do not find any difference.

Mr. John Newton—I do not like to interrupt, but there is that question of the fence separators, or no-bee-way separators, such as Mr. Bowen mentioned in his paper, that I have been thinking about. Mr. Bowen was in favor of no-bee-way separators.

Mr. Pettit—No-bee-way section and fence separator.



Mr. Smith—These fence separators are made some with cleats and some without.

Mr. Pettit—There is likely to be a ridge.

Mr. Chrysler—Does that spoil the honey for sale?

A.—No. There is room opposite that space where they can build out the honey just a little bit.

Mr. Holtermann—The wire cloth separator is the best separator, I think. Using it, there is no ridge surface on the comb.

Mr. Timbers—Is not this washboard honey more liable to have the sections broken?

Mr. Pettit—Yes, if they are no-bee-way sections; I prefer the bee-way sections.

Mr. Switzer—I used fence separators this last season for the first time, and I find that the combs are just about as smooth as any. I think we had just as good comb honey this season as any other season.

Mr. Holtermann—Was the flow comparatively light?

Mr. Switzer—Yes, not more than half.

Mr. McEvoy—Which of the sections would you prefer?

Mr. Switzer—In the short experience I have had in one season I am very much in favor of no-bee-way. I think 1½ inch section is a little too wide.

Mr. Timbers—Would not there be more likely to be wash-board honey in a good season than there would in a poor season like this?

Mr. Holtermann—Yes, I think so.

Mr. Switzer—I think a slack 1-4 inch bee space would be better and I do not think you will have any trouble.

Mr. Lowry—I have used separators with a few holes bored in them and with even one hole opposite the sections; there would be a ridge there, and I think these washboards, as you call them, spoil the appearance of the sections.

Mr. Pettit—Did you ever try 5-16?

Mr. Smith—The 5-16 is the right size. I have used hundreds of them.

Mr. Lowry—I use the bait combs if I can get them.

Mr. Chrysler—I had some difficulty in using these plain sections at first on account of them having this wash-board appearance when filled. If you put another super on, you do not get this, it is in too much crowding of the honey, not giving them room enough, I find is the trouble.

Mr. Adams—Even in seasons like last I found no-bee-way sections had more or less of the washboard appearance.

Mr. Pettit—Did the section comb flush with the top?

Mr. Adams—Yes flush with the top of the inside of the section.

The Chairman—I intend to ask Mr. Chrysler if he tried the wire section.

Mr. Chrysler—I did, but it was too late before I got them on, but the results I had with them was very good.

Mr. Holtermann—I had one hundred of the wire sections made. Mr. Betsner said it was absolutely necessary to have perfect workmanship and absolutely correct spacing. Perhaps some of you saw the illustration in "Gleanings" in connection with the Betsner separator which was very discouraging. These wire separators are good for fifty years if you take care of them, because you can put them into hot water and clean them absolutely.

Q.—Is it a fact that black bees or hybrids will cap comb honey whiter than the Italians?

A.—In my experience it is.

Q.—Shall the bee escape be placed in the centre of the board or at one side to be most effective?

A.—I think probably in the centre would be best. The only kind I have used is in the centre of the board; the bees want to get down to where the brood is and this being above the brood

would naturally be the best escape made by Mr. Porter escape.

Q.—Why do brood chambers again?

A.—It depends on the flow lasts long. Mr. Bowen's section, and they of brood, and then by the time again the season's conclusion that the Chairman accomplished by

giving room and them, it forces you give them spread over the would not care give below, they start on the foot you put on you go right into the them more read space below, because section starter the section in the that is what I remember.

Mr. Newton—I knew he would do it; we had years.

Mr. Pettit—For me up that the other.

Q.—How do you access?

A.—The only way meaning of this question does not understand. They are of the shape of the brood chambers they are put in



would naturally draw them down. The best escape board I have used is one made by Mr Smith. I find that it cleans the super better than a single Porter escape.

Q.—Why does not contraction of the brood chambers induce swarming again?

A.—It depends on the season. If the flow lasts long enough, it does.

Mr. Bowen says he prefers foundation, and they have this comb, too, full of brood, and they work in the supers, and by the time things are filled up again the season is so near to the conclusion that they do not swarm again.

The Chairman—I think that can be accomplished by hiving on starter and giving room above. If you contract them, it forces them to swarm, but if you hive them on starters, they will spread over the top of the hive. I would not care if you put the empty hive below, they would go right up and start on the foundation starters; then you put on your sections. They will go right into them. They will accept them more readily than they will the space below, because they have a foundation starter there. Some people put a section in there to bait them, and that is what I recommend rather than dummies.

Mr. Newton—I am glad he said that. I knew he would do it; it is the same old thing; we have done it for years and years.

Mr. Pettit—For myself, will never give up that the dummy is far ahead of the other.

Q.—How do you use dummies with access?

A.—The only way we can get at the meaning of this question is that some one does not understand what dummies are. They are boards cut the size and shape of the comb and placed in the brood chambers at the outside. They are put in place of the combs

so that the brood chambers will be contracted that much. Mr. Bowen has an eight-frame hive, and he puts three dummies—I suppose two at one side and one at the other—and leaves the frames between; these dummies are placed at the side of the brood chambers, and it is contracted that much.

Mr. Timbers—Would not a division board answer the same purpose as a dummy?

A.—No.

Mr. Brown—We adopted Mr. J. J. Hall's plan of driving staples into the side of the dummy, so as not to have any further spacing, staple on each end.

Mr. Pettit—That is the way I space all my frames, with staples.

Mr. John Newton—Why place an empty super on top of a full super for comb honey?

Mr. Pettit—The reason for that is that the usual plan is to place the empty super under the finished one; that is what the bees prefer, and they will go to work a little better in that way; but when we do that they practically work in the empty top until the empty super is brought to the same stage of completion, and then they go on to complete the work together. If the honey flow continues, you have the two supers finished, but if it does not continue, you have them unfinished.

Mr. Newton—Do you recommend that through the whole season?

A.—No.

Mr. R. H. Smith—Won't they swarm much quicker with full sheets of foundation than with starters?

A.—Yes.

The Chairman—I am going to ask Mr. Miller to answer the balance of the questions.

raise a queen she would be useless; they will build the cells and complete them. The only way I have been able to complete a colony, long queenless, satisfactorily, is by treating it with eggs. If it is drone-laying colony, the only method I have used is to take it away, shake the colony out and replace them with a colony having a queen.

Q.—Is an eight, ten or twelve-frame hive best for comb honey?

A.—I would take the smallest.

Q.—Will a hive of bees swarm out with the last virgin queen, leaving the hive queenless? And why?

A.—I don't think I can offer anything on that.

The Chairman—I have known a colony to swarm in that way, with only one queen, and leave the hive perfectly queenless. I don't know why they do it, unless there is an abundant flow. Perhaps they are crowded, but I know it has been done in my own experience.

Mr. Timbers—Did all the bees go with the queen, or did they leave half behind?

A.—I think they left enough to cover the combs.

Mr. Holtermann—What evidence have you that they did that? Did you see them swarm out, and did you go to that swarm and find that there was not another queen as well as your young queen?

The Chairman—Yes, immediately after they swarmed. I had known them to have only one queen, and I saw them swarm and wondered why. There was no queen left, and nothing to make a queen.

Mr. Holtermann—Were they hybrid bees?

The Chairman—My bees are hybrids, some Italians.

Mr. Timbers—I had a swarm come out in the same way, and I put them back, and the next day they came

out again, and I thoroughly examined them; finally they decided to stay, but the queen never did any good.

Q.—What strain of bees is considered the best for the production of comb honey?

A.—For instance, capping qualities I would say hybrids. You occasionally get Italians that will white cap, but



MR. P. W. HODGETTS,  
Secretary O. B. K. A.

Italians generally cap with a white coloring.

Q.—Shall we winter inside or outside?  
A.—It is a matter of choice and local conditions. I prefer outside wintering. I can do it outside with less convenience than I can wintering inside. I used to prefer inside wintering when I had only one yard but I find the results are better in the spring from outside wintering.

Q.—Have you a single wall

A.—I use a colonies, not a

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The Chairman—

Q.—Have you a double wall hive or a single wall hive?

A.—I use a wintering case for four colonies, not a double wall, just a single, four hives in a bunch.

Mr. Pettitt—Do you leave the bottom board tight and the cover on?

A.—Yes, just as they are.

Q.—Did you ever find the entrance clogged up with bees?

A.—No, I rake the entrance out if the snow blocks it up.

Q.—How do you fix the outside entrance to keep the snow from packing?

A.—I think it would be better to have a storm door fit over the entrance. I have been studying that out for some years but haven't perfected one to suit me.

Q.—Have you had any experience in wintering bees in a trench covered with straw and earth?

A.—I have had no experience with that system of wintering.

Mr. R. F. Whiteside—I tried that a number of years ago when I had about six hives; I put them in just the same as potatoes. I dug a hole three feet wide and two feet deep, and I put straw and boards and earth, then straw and boards and more earth. I put a gas pipe up through for ventilation but the bees stopped them all up, but they came out as lively as bees ever did in my experience. Next year I tried eighteen and I boarded them all up inside and the lower twelve hives were very easily carried out when spring came. On the top rows they managed to pull through. The first time they were all right and the next time there were twelve gone.

Mr. Holtermann—I tried six or eight that way. They came through all alive but they were a poor success and I do not feel like repeating the experiment. It is the regular practise in Russia to bury bees under the ground.

The Chairman—I think the soil has

a good deal to do with it. I do not think sandy soil would do at all.

Mr. John Timbers—I tried it with a couple of colonies one winter. They were good when I put them in but they came out too quickly, two early, when I wanted to take them out they were all gone. The outside atmosphere would have something to do with it. The year I tried it we had a mild winter, something like last.

The Chairman — My experience is that it would not be a very good thing to recommend to any one.

Q.—Are not the forms enquiring regarding honey crop, issued too early for many bee-keepers giving correct information to form a basis of prices?

A.—I do not think they could be issued too early for the benefit of bee-keepers for market. The trouble is the other way. We need that report just as early as the honey comes from the hive.

The Chairman—It would be better if the bee-keepers would not be so particular for having it exactly accurate. Give it as nearly as you can and send in a report. I think some bee-keepers are so honest that they do not like to report until they have it all laid out and know exactly what they have got. That is a mistake, we do not want to know just to a pound or two.

Mr. Holtermann—I quite agree with what Mr. Miller has said as to the need of estimating rather than waiting to know the exact amount. There is no use writing a man what his buckwheat honey crop is going to be about the first of August. And I would suggest that there be an attached slip which can be torn off and used as a fall report.

Q.—Can colonies coming out of winter quarters queenless be properly queened in the spring?

A.—From my own experience I will say No. You can send and get queens and introduce them, but I do not think with profit to the producer. It is too early in the season to handle a colony in that state properly.

Mr. Wm. McEvoy—If you had a strong colony and they lost their queen would not you try to get a queen?

A.—No. I would unite it with a colony that had a queen but few bees.

Mr. Holtermann—I do not like that answer to go unchallenged. If I have a stock of fertile workers I never want to trouble with them, I simply shake off from the combs and that is the end of it, but in the spring of the year I have saved many a colony by having young queens come on and putting them in. I rarely ever unite stocks. I have bought queens in the south and had them come on in April and saved quite a few colonies by doing it and I think it paid me to do it.

Mr. Miller—I am not saying but what it can be done; it depends upon the amount of work and the expense you want to go to. We answer a great many of these questions from our own standpoint, and the way we believe to be most profitable to ourselves. A man with a few colonies and wanting more I would say get your queens from the south, but with one, two, or three hundred colonies, I would never think of ordering a queen for the colony I would raise my own queens. I would never think of shaking off a colony of fertile workers. I do not allow them to dwindle down until they are a handful. As soon as I find a fertile worker I take my hive, separate the two brood chambers, jar the bees out on the ground, and I can do it in the time I am telling you, and I place the colony on the stand ready for the winter.

Q.—If you had a good strong colony in May without a queen, you would shake it into the next colony that had a queen?

A.—Yes, instead of re-queening that colony, I would unite it with another.

Q.—Why not introduce a new queen?

A.—Because there is no profit in it. If you have a small number of hives it would be all right to introduce a new queen.

We are talking about colonies coming out of winter quarters.

Mr McEvoy—You are right I thought it was in May or sometime in the spring.

Mr. Holtermann — Certainly never disturb a colony when you come on to apple bloom. It seems to me there is more work in uniting that colony than there is in putting a new queen into it.

Mr. Miller—In uniting a colony in the Heddon hive, I simply bring one tier and set it on top of the other. The bees will unite themselves. I simply carry my colony over to the one I wish to unite it with.

Mr. Holtermann—I find you can introduce a queen very readily if you do it very soon after they come out in spring. If they are out it is very hard to introduce a queen but if they have been in the cellar I find no difficulty.

Q.—In taking a swarm on starters is it wise to put on queen excluder between section super?

A.—I have always practised it if there were no drawn comb I would certainly put on the excluder.

The Chairman—Where shallow hives are used the excluder would be necessary. A double hive would not need it so much because the bees would go further down on the comb.

Mr. Pettit—You are not figuring on the rim of honey on top of the comb.

Q.—How do you like an engine for extracting?

A.—I may say I have had one season's use of a gasoline engine for running an extractor, and I like it very much. The fact that I can fit it for a gasoline engine gives me advantage. I am certainly pleased with it.

Q.—If an e brood chamber ers. will it be queen excluder

A.—With m so. Mr. Sibl vantages of frames, I pres case. I have s on for comb h Q.—What abe od of building spring, is it a

A.—I cannot plan more ada system than mi

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The Chairma— ow the Minister onorable Nelson been waiting t be glad that he i much pleasure in c dress you.

(Continued



## Communication

Q.—If an empty comb is put in brood chamber when hiving, on starters, will it be necessary to put on a queen excluder?

A.—With my systems I would do so. Mr. Sibbald spoke of the advantages of putting in large, deep frames, I presume that would be the case. I have always put the excluder on for comb honey, and I keep it on.

Q.—What about the Alexander method of building up weak colonies in spring, is it a good one?

A.—I cannot say as to that. It is a plan more adapted to the chairman's system than mine. I never tried it.

The Chairman — The system is to put two colonies one on top of the other with a queen excluder between them. Set the weak colony on top of the strong one. I put two queen excluders on top of the strong colony and then a weak colony on top of that. I would always choose a colony right beside the one you are moving. Do not carry the colony from the other side of the yard because if you do you lose the flying bees.

Q.—When would you do that?

The Chairman—After they get some brood.

Q.—What is the best time to put bees in the cellar in the vicinity of Toronto?

The Chairman—About 15th to 20th of November would be my advice about that.

Q.—Would an uncapping machine be a very great advantage?

A.—From my own standpoint it would be of very great advantage.

With an uncapping machine and my gasoline engine I could almost sit down during the busy season, providing the capping machine came up to my requirements.

The Chairman—We have with us now the Minister of Agriculture, the honorable Nelson Monteith. We have been waiting to hear him and we are glad that he is here, and I have much pleasure in calling upon him to address you.

(Continued next issue.)

May it not be possible that a part history of a couple of colonies, swarms of 1905, may be of interest to some of your readers, especially the method of dividing a colony or making a swarm, a la "clodhopper"? These colonies had clipped Italian queens and I practiced stimulative feeding as soon as they were put out of the cellar last spring. I may say, too, that they came from off four-inch scantling near the bottom of a good cellar, with no bottom-boards, with a few inches of planer shavings around and above them, except in front, not tiered up. They came out in good condition, while many near the top of the cellar suffered severely from the heat of this extraordinary winter. They together were fed about 1-4 pint of good honey and as much water, quite warm, nearly every day, the water I considered essential to success, like our friend Johnson in American Bee Journal of July 26, 1906, p. 635. He feeds 3-4 water and thus prevents the bees dying at watering places when it is too cold for them to be out; water being then so essential for speedy brood-raising. We had a lot of old clothes that had been saved up for years to cover tomato plants from the frost, and they were used to protect the hives from both heat and cold and boards protected them entirely from rain all the season. I cut out all embryo queen cells, in fact, I injured the bees by opening them up too often. I was trying to get them to build 9 1-2 inch combs instead of the shallow 7 1-2 Danzenbaker ones in which one of them had been since 1905, and the other in deeper, but patched-up combs. I succeeded in getting nearly all new combs built for the two stories of the deep hive with 11-inch frames by ordinary Danzenbaker hive of 16 1-4 by 20 outside, and robbed them of many bees to build up swarms got from the woods. Neither of the colonies swarmed unless they did so when not watched. The bees in the hive with 9 1-2 frames originally with the 7 1-2 ones were built up till they were 34 inches high, and full of bees and much honey, and they became as vicious as any blacks ever were. I desired these to swarm, but to no purpose, and although they were killing the drones at the close of the flow from clover, I determined to have

a swarm on a new plan; so I got a new hive and set it beside the old one, as close as possible, or so they touched in front, but were some six inches apart behind. I put queen-excluding zinc over the entrances and closed the entrances altogether except a bare two inches of each where they came together. I had previously forced all the bees into the two stories of 9 1-2 frames below removing the two shallow ones from above. I then set the upper hive and bees to one side, closed in, and proceeded to remove every other frame of brood and bees from the lower half to the new and empty hive standing beside it; placing a full frame of foundation in its place and a frame of foundation beside the full frame put into the empty hive. I did this with all the frames, so that when I got through each hive, that is the old one and the new one, each had a full frame of bees and honey and a frame of foundation alternately throughout. I then fixed the upper stories in the same way and set them over the others with excluders between. Both now clustered over the double entrance, as I expected them to do, and each day. I enlarged the entrance about an inch till they were four inches each, and about the third day I concluded they had settled down to work, and I soon after opened the entrances to full width 7-8 deep and moved the hives about an inch apart at the front. They soon became quiet and almost filled each double storey with new full or half-built new combs, the most objectional feature of their work red to build up in the previous built combs till they projected almost to the mid-rib of the foundation, which when discovered was remedied by slicing off being that, as might have been expected, with sheets of foundation close up to built combs, they sometimes prefer the surplus comb and putting thin division boards between, to make them draw out the foundation, which was not finished when the buckwheat flow ceased and the harvest was over.

Your readers who subscribe to American bee papers must have noticed how frequently they contain half-written articles, with the pith of the matter that would have made them practical left out. It has taken the Root Company over a year to rectify the half-useless Alexander articles on strengthening weak colonies by setting them

over strong ones, as given in "Gleanings," by only now giving us the method of separation practiced, that was of as much importance to the novice as how to unite them. You ought to give us the short Alexander article in your next issue as it appeared in "Gleanings" of November 1, but allow me to give the novice a warning who chooses to practice it next spring—watch the upper brood-nest and do not allow the two colonies to remain together too long, or the bees may "plug" it up with pollen and honey as they did in a case of mine, so that the upper queen had no room left to lay eggs in. The bees seemed almost to ignore the presence of the queen above and joined their forces for the queen below. I may add that neither of the colonies set one on top of the other were weak and were the same whose part history is given above.

By a blunder when separating them I stopped the queens from laying for about ten days; only for that, and having no combs for the bees themselves to live in but those I wished to discard, and had it not been necessary to keep them comb building for themselves and others and (another if) if I had been provided with spare empty combs, the surplus might have been phenomenal.

NOVICE.

Northumberland, Nov. 24.

### HONEY CROP IN EUROPE.

According to a statistical report issued in Germany the honey production in the different European countries is as follows: Germany produces annually 40 million pounds and has nearly 10 million colonies of bees; Spain produces 38,000,000 pounds from 1,690,000 colonies; Austria-Hungary produces 36,000,000 pounds of honey and has 550,000 colonies; France produces 30,000,000 pounds, Holland 5,000,000 pounds, Belgium 4,000,000 Greece with only 30,000 colonies of bees, producing 2,800,000 as against Russia's 1,800,000 pounds with 110,000 colonies. Denmark produces 1,800,000 pounds of honey. It is estimated that the value of all the honey is equal to a little over ten million dollars.—American Bee-Keeper.

QUEEN

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## QUERIES and ANSWERS

Circumstances made it about impossible for me to prepare my bees for winter when they should have been attended to, and now find, when perhaps they should be in the cellar, that half a dozen or more hives out of 25 are short of stores. What had I better do with them—risk them over until spring or try to feed them inside?—Subscriber C. B. J.

Answer—Colonies of bees that are short of stores may be fed in the cellar without much trouble, either with combs of honey laid on top of the frames, or, in case you have no honey, sugar syrup may be given. My plan is to make a good syrup of best granulated sugar and put this into sealer jars. Tie a piece of muslin over the mouth, or, better, use the rubber ring, then invert the jar of syrup over the cluster of bees so that they can suck the feed through the cloth. When the jar is emptied it may be replaced with a full jar. Another way is to make a candy of sugar and honey as directed in the October number C. B. J., 1905. By either method of feeding I have brought colonies through the winter when, if they had not been fed, they would have starved. The temperature of the cellar should be not less than 45 degrees.

Can bees be safely taken in a car of household furniture, Ontario to Edmonton, and how early in the spring could one venture to do this?—H. R., Alberta.

Answer—I would have no hesitation in taking a small number of colonies of bees to Edmonton in a car of effects, providing there was some person in charge to give them water if needed. Twenty-four years ago the writer took

a colony to Indian Head, was 15 days on the journey, and the bees arrived in good order. The best time would be any time after the first flight in spring.

+

What are the benefits of membership in the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association? Does it guarantee any protection to a bee-keeper in case of a lawsuit over keeping bees?—J. S., Bruce Ont.

The benefits of membership in the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association are mainly of an educational nature. Members receive a copy of The Canadian Bee Journal each month, also a copy of the report of the annual convention and report of Honey Crop Committee, etc., and if a member can attend the annual convention he will meet many bee-keepers and gain much knowledge of bee-keeping that he could not acquire in any other way. The O.B.K.A. is not a union or protective association.

R. H. SMITH.

St. Thomas, Ont.

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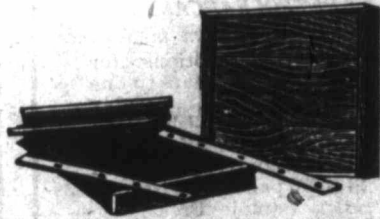
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