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CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

NEW SERIES
VOL. III, No. 5.

BRANTFORD, ONT., NOV., 1896.

WHOLE NO.
381

The Weekly Sun, the Organ of the Patrons of Industry, is a very readable paper.

In its issue of October the Weekly Sun. 7th, 1896, it quotes honey as follows:—

Clear strained honey is worth 9c. and dark " We are sorry to see a farmer's paper all the honey now produced *Strained*. So many papers call extracted honey by this name, and a journal such as the Sun should be an educator upon such questions. Some weeks ago under Toronto markets the same paper advised bee-keepers to get their honey to market as quickly as possible, as prices showed a downward tendency. We are inclined to think that when such advice is given to a large number of people and by a paper having so large a circulation as the Sun, it would be likely to result in a rush of buyers to Toronto and the liability to break the market. Bee-keepers ship too much to Toronto and Montreal, neglecting their own market and four-fifths of the Dominion does not see honey. Here is a useful field for us to develop the Canadian honey market.

* * *

The American Bee Journal is discussing the question of prices of honey and who fixes the price. The paper establishes the editor and several prices of Honey. Others very justly condemn the system of selling on commission. Here in Canada our honey has been sold in this way as far as we can judge, this way of business has in the majority of cases been a satisfactory, and we trust it will

never get a foothold in Canada. As to who fixes the prices, the men who sell collectively fix the price, those who sell for too little drag the price down and fix the price much faster than those who succeed in getting good prices, but all influence more or less the market. One serious mistake made by bee-keepers, is they are not willing to allow sufficient margin between the wholesale and retail price. Say he wholesales his entire crop at 8c. per lb., in that case he has no business selling his honey retail at less than 10c. per lb. and that does not mean 11 lbs. for a dollar either. The retailer cannot afford to do liquor, weigh out, and sell, often on time, and pay other business expenses for a less margin. If the bee-keeper cuts the retail price in the end, he must again cut the wholesale or the retailer will not handle any more. Of course, we do not wish to ignore the law of supply and demand in fixing the price of honey. A good quality of honey will create a market and stiffen the price, but much lies at the door of the seller.

* * *

"A Lover of good Honey" in the British Bee Journal, which is always a welcome visitor at our desk, in its issue of October 8th draws attention to instances where foreign honey is sold as British. His letter reads as follows.

"I beg to send you a few enumerated items giving results of inquiries made by

myself on a subject which must be of some interest to B. J. readers:—

1. On inquiring for English honey at a large wholesale and retail London shop the other day I was referred to the proprietor in the office. He told me that he had no English honey, but that he sold about three tons of foreign honey a year, for which he gave 2½d. a lb. He stated that many even of the chemists, in addition to such people as hawkers, sold foreign honey as English. The latter would buy from him as much as one or two cwt. at a time.

2. At another shop, on asking for English honey, I was shown some metal-capped jars with the words "Pure Honey" and the name and address of an appliance dealer from whom it was bought on the labels. "This," said the manager, "was ordered by me from a traveller who said that he came from—shire, and, of course, I concluded that it was English honey as he said nothing to the contrary, and especially as he had informed me that his employer kept bees." The honey was sent but he found out that it was not English honey at all. When the traveller came again to him he charged him with selling him foreign honey for English. Of course the traveller could not deny it, but he made a lame excuse. This appliance dealer, who takes prizes at honey shows, knows perfectly well what his traveller does, but renders *himself* free from attack as he only puts "pure" honey on the labels and not "English" honey.

3. At another shop the same history was repeated, only in this case the traveller represented—shire dealer. The honey was labelled "White Flower Honey" and "Heather Honey," which was palpably not English, and English was not on the labels. Of this class of foreign honey, about four tons were offered for sale to an honest dealer in English honey by a—shire bee-keeper, who is also, it appears, an importer of foreign honey. In this case the written offer, which I have seen, left you to suppose it was English "Honey." "White Clover Honey" were the words used. On asking the bee keeper for a guarantee that it was "English," the truth came out that it was "foreign honey." This, of course, ended the negotiations.

4. Perhaps the worst case is that of a London chemist, who told me that before he went into business on his own account he had been engaged in three wholesale drug houses, and in every one of them foreign honey was sent to their retail customers instead of, and as, English, if English honey happened to be high in price, or if they had no English honey in stock.

A man may buy or sell foreign honey if he likes, but he may not sell it as English.

Should not the county in which English honey is gathered, or the word "English," with the name of the producer be put on each bottle in every case?

A LOVER OF GOOD HONEY.

The editor makes the following editorial comments:

"The letter of a correspondent will throw some light on the way in which the British bee-keeper and the consumer of what the latter supposes to be British honey are defrauded by dishonest or unscrupulous traders. The question of meeting the difficulty, as regards protecting the native product, is a wide one, and will, no doubt, receive full and careful attention on the part of the B. B. K. A. and its affiliated County Associations. In the meantime we can but impress on our readers, who are members of County Associations, the importance of using the county label on their honey. This, at least, is one way of securing its identity as British honey, and if consumers are educated into the use of the label, they will be disposed to prefer such honey from the tradesmen whose jars are furnished with the British trade mark in the shape of the county label."

The British Bee-keeper has a distinct right to complain of such treatment, so has the British Consumer, and if the honey is Canadian so has the Canadian Bee-keeper. We want everything sold for what it is, and Canadian Bee-keepers are anxious and not afraid to sell Canadian honey for what it is. They know that they can establish a reputation for Canadian honey. Care must of course be taken to send only a good quality; but of this, with a little care, we can produce an abundance.

* * *

The British Bee-Keepers' Guide Book, No. 1, Thousand, by Thomas William Cowan,

L. S., F. G. S., F. R. S.

The British Bee-keepers' Guide Book. It is a book of nearly

two hundred pages, well printed and illustrated, price 1s. 6d. and a valuable apicultural work. The system of handling and managing bees is somewhat different to our American, but the book is well worth reading. There is no apicultural work we value more highly than the Honey Bee by the same author. There are many ideas that Europe

America could exchange with profit and we hope that there will be during the Worlds' Fair at Paris, a great International Bee-Keepers' Congress, and that a very full report will be taken of the proceedings and the same translated by each country taking part. The latter could be done by the governments of the various countries.

Wintering.

On the 904th page of the Canadian Bee Journal may be found an interesting and readable article from the pen of Mr. J. D. Evans. At the close of the letter Mr. Evans asks the editor for his opinion on two questions, and as the editor, so far, has failed to answer, I take the liberty of injecting my opinion with the hope that it may be helpful to some.

These are the questions: "Is there any advantage in raising the hives on blocks or simply drawing them back so that they project over the bottom boards, and in the case of a dry cellar which can be warmed to any extent, like mine, are cushions of any use?"

Answering the first question, I would say: that it depends somewhat upon the space between the bottom board and the frames, which, should be not less than one inch with some sort of ladders that the bees can easily pass from the floor, or bottom board to the frames. If the space is much less than one inch it may become choked with dead bees and that would work injury and very likely death to the bees, but if that space be provided for in some other way, then slipping the hive back as practiced by Mr. Evans would be alright for ventilation. But there is another objection to the practice, and it is this: bees very often while on duty not knowing that the door of their dwelling is removed, drop from the combs and are lost.

I may be allowed to say that if river stone is clear it is as good as land stone for building a cellar wall; that is as far as the health of the bees is concerned. If such a thing be possible that the river stone heats more or rather condenses more moisture than land stone why then the air should be relieved of just that much moisture and I hardly think that would work harm unless that artificial heat makes the cellar too dry.

Another thing: my experience compels me to believe that 40° to 42° is a better tem-

perature than 45°, but in that case a warm cushion on the top of every hive is indispensable. The nearer the temperature of the cellar air approaches that of the hive air the less perfect will be automatic ventilation and then the bees will resort to fanning the foul air out of their hives and you have that "contented hum," that indicates discontent and works mischief. It is a mistake to suppose that bees can be wintered any better outside than in a cellar.

With the hope of helping, I am

S. T. PETTIT.

Belmont, Oct. 23rd, 1896.

[We do not like to answer all the questions asked as it often cuts off information which may be imparted by our readers.—Ed]

Reports of the Season.

I regret very much that I was absent during the last session of the N. A. B. A. convention. I must confess it was using you rather mean. I fully intended to be on hand at the finish; but owing to your cutting short the programme, I could not do so. I had special business to attend to at the exhibition in the forenoon. I got through, and hurried back to the place of meeting in the afternoon, and I assure you I was greatly disappointed to find that the convention had pulled up stakes.

I hope the proposed union of the associations will soon be consummated.

I would propose a new scheme in connection with the C. B. J. It is this: have each subscriber send you a short report—written on a post card—every week for six months, to commence with April. The first reports to be how bees have wintered—I mean April and May reports—June and July, prospects of honey crop and August and September, prices of honey.

You send reports to each subscriber every week printed on post cards, either a short summing up of reports, or several from different parts of Canada. We don't need to hear from the U. S. about the crop, as it does not effect our prices, etc. Each subscriber to furnish his own cards—headed weekly reports—and pay say \$1.75 for C. B. J. and reports included, or whatever you require to make it pay.

Wishing you and the C. B. J. success. I am

Yours truly,

R. A. MARRISON.

Inverary, Ont.

Reports of the Season.....

Yours dated Aug. 8th, duly came to hand. I beg to apologize for not replying to it earlier, I have been very busy with the harvest and so it was forgotten.

Being very young in the "Bee Business" I can scarcely answer your questions as I should like.

1. Good, (increased 2 colonies to 6.) I speak for myself.

2. Good with me—no other bees kept near me.

3. Good.

4. Very good.

5. Good I think; but do not know enough about them to say definitely.

6. Cannot say.

7. My bees seem to work partly on buckwheat and partly on clover.

8. Very good I consider. Increase from 6 to 18 colonies. I do not consider my bees have done so well lately as they did in the earlier part of the season, on account of the spell of hot dry weather we had. As soon as I open a hive, robbers commence operations, so I have to leave them till I am prepared for them.

Yours truly,

J. T. COLSON.

Pembroke, Renfrew Co., Ont., Aug. 29, 1896.

I had no bees last year but bought twenty-five colonies. The man I bought of had twenty-six colonies and they all wintered—lost none. The bees seemed to build up fast in the spring. I don't know much about the white clover and thistle flow but I had about two hundred sections that were saleable. There is plenty of buckwheat throughout this part and I think I will have 12,00 lbs. of buckwheat honey. I had thirty swarms this summer—all in June.

M. KITCHEN.

Mabea, Norfolk Co., Ont.

In replying to your questions of August 18th, would say there was no swarming in this locality in 1895. Bees wintered well the past winter, or all that were supplied with plenty of winter stores and properly prepared. The past spring has built up

well in this locality until the middle of May. Then there was a total absence of honey till the 1st of July. At that time they were short of honey and not strong in brood. The colony yielded nothing; in fact there was no clover, caused by drought. Basswood yielded 55lbs. per colony in my apiary, taken at one extracting. Thistle yields nothing here. Prospects for buckwheat are very good in some localities I have 800 colonies on the Murray Canal that are doing well, but my Trenton apiary will do well if they get their winter's supply. Swarming has been below the average this season. I have had but two swarms, although some has had excessive swarming.

C. W. POSE.

Trenton, Ontario Co., Ont.

You will have to excuse me for not answering your questions sooner. But here they are:

1. None.
2. Good.
3. Good.
4. Fair.
5. Good.
6. None.
7. Fair.
8. Good.

Yours &c.,

JAMES ARMSTRONG,

Cheapside, Haldimand Co., Ont. Aug. 22, 1896.

I have much pleasure in answering the questions you sent me as follows:

1. My bees did not swarm in 1895.
2. As far as I could learn there was heavy loss in bees last winter caused by shortage of stores.
3. Bees built up splendidly in spring. Never had mine worked so much in April before.

4. The clover flow of honey has been scanty and the bees did not gather much per day. The blossoms were soon dried up by the drought.

5. The basswood trees were nearly all loaded with blossoms and the yield was heavy, bees working very hard and storing

last. Very much more surplus from basswood than from clover.

6. There are not thistles enough to make a flow, but bees seemed to work on them for about two hours in the morning.

7. There is no buckwheat grown here.

8. Owing to moderate temperature, swarming has not been very prevalent. Some very strong colonies, requiring four and five supers, never offered to swarm or hang out but just kept gathering.

Yours truly,

STEWART SMILLIE.

Bluevale, Huron Co., Ont, Aug. 15, 1896.

Replies to your queries as to bees:

1. Swarms one in twenty in 1895.

2. First-class, mine (some very poorly.)

3. Very rapidly, some swarms on 16th

May.

4. Clover has been good.

5. Basswood flow was extra this year.

6. Thistles not raised here.

7. Two acres of buckwheat is all I know of within a radius of six miles, and that in small patches.

8. Swarming started early and swarms extra strong. All returned but first swarms.

JNO. MILLER.

Owen Sound, Grey Co., Ont., Aug. 18, 1896.

1. Swarming for 1895; none in my yard.

2. Winter loss; 50 per cent in my yard.

3. Our bees in this part increased fast this spring.

4. Any clover we got was I think from Alsike and that was only small.

5. The basswood was grand.

6. There is not enough thistle in our part to be of much value.

7. There is quite a lot of buckwheat loss to me. The bees work hard in the mornings but don't seem to get much more than they use for brood-rearing.

8. Swarming for this year was abundant.

JOHN MCEWEN.

Wanderboy P. O.

I received your letter some time ago but delayed replying to your questions, but shall do so now.

1. There were but few swarms last year.

2. Bees wintered fairly well.

3. They built up very well in the spring.

4. The clover flow was fair.

5. The flow from basswood was light.

6. The farmers here look on the thistle

as an enemy and treat it accordingly, so there is no thistle honey gathered here.

7. When buckwheat first came into bloom bees worked on it but seem to have given up in disgust as they got nothing from it of any account.

8. Swarming was not excessive with me but have heard some complaints about swarming and stinging, but I could find no fault with mine; of course there were days when they were cross, and I would be the same if my house was pulled down and my winter stores carried away.

Yours truly,

ALEX BLACK.

Sonya, Ont., Aug. 21, 1896.

Your letter to hand requesting me to answer a few questions in regard to bees and honey in our locality. I will endeavor to do so to the best of my ability, judging from my own apiary as I am the only one in this locality who uses the moveable comb hive.

1. Swarming in 1895 was very good.

2. Bees wintered good—could not ask for better.

3. Bees built up well in the spring.

4. Clover flow very poor—did not last long—weather too dry and hot.

5. Basswood flow has been excellent—best that it has been for a number of years.

6. Thistle flow not much of any account.

7. Prospects for buckwheat are poor in this locality.

8. Swarming this year has been all that could be desired for those who were after increase.

W. F. M. NAIRN.

Millie Roches, Ont., Aug. 13, 1896.

1. No swarming.

2. Good.

3. Poorly.

4. Middling.

5. Very Fair.

6. Not much.

7. None.

8. Too much.

CHAS. BROWN.

Drumquin, Halton Co. Ont.

I am always glad to speak on the Bee Subject. In 1895 my bees did as well as I could expect for the dry season. I got 3 hives from Mr. I. Goold, of Brantford, and one swarmed 2. The other two did not swarm but gave me a good supply of honey. Basswood is in abundance here and buckwheat is sown by most all our farmers

and gave a good supply of honey in 1895. Bees wintered well here. I wintered in my cellar but don't approve of cellar wintering although my bees did well in the cellar. Bees do well in spring as there is lots of willow to gather from here. Bees have done well on buckwheat. Basswood was good this year and swarming was good also. The Dutch and Alsike clovers were good up to the drought. This is a good place for bees. The only fault I find, is, the winter is a little too long. Will you please send me a copy of the Bee Journal; I think I will take it.

ANDREW BLACK.

St. Joseph Island.

In answer to your questions asked :

1. One per cent.
2. Indoor wintering 50 per cent. lost— outdoor 30 per cent.
3. Very fast; but many were very weak.
4. Above the average.
5. Under the average.
6. Above the average.
7. Not enough grown to be able to tell; are working somewhat on the little that is grown.
8. Would swarm as you could wish if not prevented.

Those whose bees came out in good order would net them about 100 lbs. per colony; while those that came out weak, mine being among them, barely 50 lbs.

A. PICKET.

Nassagaweya, Halton Co. Ont.

1. The swarming last year was not up to the average.
2. The bees wintered very well.
3. They built up in the spring very poorly on account of the cold and frost.
4. The clover flow of honey was very good this year.
5. Basswood was pretty good.
6. The thistle we have none, so I cannot say how it was.
7. The buckwheat honey has been plentiful.
8. The swarming has been very good this year.

I am writing from my own experience for there are very few keep bees around here, but mine have done better this year than they have for about four or five years.

Yours truly,
ARCHY MCINTYRE.

In reply to your letter of inquiry of Aug. 8th, I regret that I am not in a position to answer your questions satisfactorily and

intelligently, but will give you the following for what it is worth :

Last spring after the apple bloom was over, I received a hive from Goold, Shapley and Muir, they were in good condition when received, but their stores were nearly exhausted before clover bloomed. However when clover bloomed (alsike and white) they filled the body of their hive with honey and sent out two swarms which in turn nearly filled their hives (the body only with clover honey and filled it completely with basswood honey. I have taken no surplus yet. I put a super on each of the three hives about the 10th of July, but no honey has been stored in them. They were filled with section foundation.

Thistle or buckwheat can hardly be considered as honey sources in this locality, as there is only about 10 acres of buckwheat that I know of but wish there was more.

From the foregoing you can perhaps form an idea of the honey season or my skill.

Bee-keeping in this vicinity seems to be on the retrograde, due perhaps to the practice of obsolete methods and the disappearance of honey-yielding trees, which are destroyed in large numbers annually by fire and axe, and perhaps the poorer prices for the products of the apiary might be added.

Hoping these few lines will meet with your approval, I remain yours very truly,

A. E. BROWN.

Port Albert, Ont., Aug. 17th. 1896.

1. None. No honey, The second failure in 18 years.
2. In cellar good; outdoors not extra good.
3. Built up very rapidly this spring. Spring very favorable.
4. None whatever. I never saw as little. We had no rain during April, May or June except a few showers. In fact we have only had one good rain since the first of April. This has been the driest season ever known.
5. Basswood was extra. As good as I have ever seen it.
6. We never have any.
7. " " "
8. I ran altogether for extracted in Basswood bloom, knowing its short duration and having a large surplus of combs. I placed them on. Had no swarming. My neighbors report some swarms. Only heard of two runaway swarms this season.

Aug. 20th. 1896. WILL ELLIS.
St. Davids, Sween Niagara Co

I received your favor on the 15th request-
me to answer several questions, which I
will do as well as I possibly can.

1. It was practically nil. I only heard
of two or three swarms around here

2. They wintered well only a few colonies
dying.

3. Very good.

4. Good.

5. Good.

6. I do not know about that.

7. I think poor. I only know of one small
plot, that was put in later.

8. Extraordinary. The bees appeared to
be making up for last year. There was too
much swarming altogether. You have
asked about several kinds of honey flows,
but there is one flow here of which we get
more than we do of buckwheat, and which
I think is more important; that is the must-
ard. The bees, I noticed worked well on
that.

W. BOWLING.

Stratford, Ont., Aug. 17th, 1896.

I will try and answer your questions.
Swarming in 1895. I had 4 swarms from
my colonies, spring count, and they gather-
ed enough to live on. 2nd. Those that had
plenty of stores and well packed in clamps,
wintered well. Mine did, but I lost a few
by being queenless. A great many farmers
lost nearly all, and some all. 3rd. Where
they had plenty of stores to begin on they
built up fast; where they had none, the re-
verse. 4th. Well, alsike has been king
for nectar here. Bees began to work on it
the last week in May and are working on
it now. They left it for the basswood, but
when it was done clover and thistles were
ready for them. 5th. Basswood was load-
ed down with bloom but rich with nectar.
Bees worked on it about ten days. 6th.
I can't tell much about the thistle flow as
the second crop of alsike was on at the same
time, and still on the go. 7th. There is
quite a lot of it down here about a mile
from me. I hope for a good fall flow from
it and golden rod and other fall flowers.
8th. I thought I could control swarming
to a greater extent, but they did just as
they pleased this season. They doubled
after cutting out queen cells and returning
as many as I could. I had 70 colonies
spring count increased to 140. All but four
are strong now. You know I am old, in
my seventy first year, and I handled my
bees without any help except to watch
them while I ate my dinner. And I had to
cook breakfast and tea for three

As you know I lost my dear wife a year
ago last May with heart failure, and I
have been very lonely since. But I know
she is happy. I see we have lost our friend

Pringle out of the bee-keepers' ranks. I
sympathize with his family.

I expect to get about 4000 pounds of
white honey comb and extract. I have
half off now. The alsike is not as light in
color as white clover.

I forgot to tell you that my bees are not
through swarming yet. I had two just
lately. I hived them and put them under
the old one. They are working all right.
I should have got more honey if they had
not swarmed so much, for it weakened the
force. As you know there has not been a
break in the flow since May, only when it
rained, and a great deal of that came at
night, and lots of it.

Yours,
DANIEL STUART.

Comber, Aug. 14th, 1896.

DEAR SIR.—Your circular of the 8th
inst. asking information with regard to
bee-keeping in this section received.

I may say incidentally that I did
not get the July number of the
C. B. J., and if you have any spare copies
you might kindly send one yet as I do not
like to miss any.

1. There was scarcely any swarming last
year; perhaps twenty per cent. of colonies
swarmed.

2. Bees generally wintered very well.

3. Bees built up very rapidly and con-
tinuously all season, so far.

4. Clover flow has been fair.

5. There were more blossoms on bass-
wood than I ever remember seeing before;
the amount of honey in each blossom was,
I think somewhat limited, so I would
answer "fair and early."

6. Thistle almost nil.

7. Buckwheat fair.

8. I think this year beats the record for
swarming. Colonies generally throw off
two prime swarms, and the first swarms
swarming themselves, with the exception
of day before yesterday which was cold and
wet. My bees have gathered honey every
day this season since they were set out,
April 24th. Within the last three weeks
I have lost hundreds of bees, fighting bum-
ble bees trying to enter the hive.

JOHN GEMMILL.

Lanark, Lanark Co. Ont.

[We are always pleased to supply miss-
ing numbers of the CANADIAN BEE
JOURNAL, and have sent you the July num-
ber.—Ed.]

Your letter of the 8th, inst. to hand, and
in reply would state that so far as I have

seen and know the following answers are given to the best of my knowledge:

1. Swarming last year was exceedingly poor, some not having had any, from seemingly strong and prosperous colonies

2. Bees just around here wintered well. Out of seven all came through alive and in fair condition; in fact good, some having brood as early as March, what I thought were work swarms.

3. Bees this spring built up fast.

4, 5 and 6. The clover, basswood and thistle flow have been abundant in this locality; large harvests having been reported from all having colonies.

7. The prospects for buckwheat honey are more than usual, as straw was scarce last fall, consequently manure was scarce this spring, and farmers have sown buckwheat more abundantly than heretofore, and therefore there will be large harvests of honey from this plant alone.

8. Swarming this summer has been very fast, and furious, so to speak, they having started early and as late as August, quite a few have come off.

In conclusion I wish to mention that the foundation you sent me was excellent; being highly pleased with it, both in appearance and quality, it being far superior to the trash we get here. Would say that if you established an agent here for supplies, I think you would do a good trade, as it is almost impossible to secure anything in time to make use of it.

Any information that I am able to give you, will be freely given any time you see fit to write me.

Allow me to ask you a question, which you can answer in the next issue of the Journal. Is there any danger of the brood chamber being too full of honey at this season of the year? Some of my swarms not having 50 sq. inches of brood cells, all the rest being full of honey. You can send me a copy of your journal when issued, and oblige. Yours truly,

Aug. 20th, 1896. J. J. McDONALD
Ravenhoe, York Co., Ont.

[Will some of our subscribers please answer the above question.—Ed.]

I am in receipt of yours of the 8th inst. and will try and give you the information you want.

1. There were very few swarms in 1895, and a great many hives had not enough honey to winter.

2. I think on an average about one half of the died, although many came through all right.

3. The bees built up very good. I might say extra good.

4. The clover flow has been good, and there is still a little clover; enough to keep them breeding good.

5. The basswood flow has been good.

6. The thistle flow has not been very good.

7. It is only very rarely that we see a piece of buckwheat around here.

8. The swarming this year has been good. In fact it has been very hard to keep them from swarming.

I think my bees will average at least 75 pounds of honey each, besides leaving them enough to winter. Yours truly,

Warwick, Aug 18, '96. N. HERBERT.

In reply to your questions would say:

1. In 1895 had no swarms, I do not allow them if I can prevent.

2. Wintered well.

3. Poor. Last 130 spring dwindled.

4. None.

5. Good.

6. Very little.

7. None here. Good in Prince Edward County.

8. Very few swarms. Yours truly,

B. O. SCOTT

Anson, Hastings Co., Aug. 19th, 1896.

1895 was a poor year for swarms—no swarms until August; and few if any wintered. The old bees wintered good and built up fast in spring. The clover flow of honey was large; the basswood flow was good, lasting two weeks; Bees did not gather much thistle honey; buckwheat flow is good. Swarming with me has been very good—swarms came from May the 23rd to August the 12th, and all have made surplus honey but the last swarm.

Yours,

THOMAS WEAVER

McCready P. O., Lambton Co., Ont., Aug. 24, 1896.

1. Hardly any—severe frost in June killed linden and clover.

2. Three quarters died, caused by early frost, which prevented brood raising after July. Consequently only old bees went into the cellar.

3. '96, Well.

4. Good but no bees.

5. Good but no bees.

6. None here.

7. I never have any worth speaking about.

8. Very fair, bees built up very fast considering their weak state.

Sulphaminol in Rotten-Brood of Bees.

L. WEISS, Karlsruhe, (Germany),—one of the foremost European authorities on Apiculture,—has communicated the results of a series of exhaustive and circumstantial experiments on Rotten-brood of Bees to the official organ of the APOICULTURAL SOCIETY of the Grand Duchy of Baden. He reports that (having tried all the remedies and therapeutic measures thus far recommended for the treatment of Rotten-brood—such as: Carbolic Acid, Tar Salicylic Acid, change of abode, change of queens, etc.—*in vain*) he found Sulphaminol to be the only reliable remedy in this disease.

WEISS gives the following details:

"By means of a rubber ball,—such as is used for insect-powder bellows,—the covered as well as the uncovered brood, the walls, the floor,—in short, the entire hive is carefully dusted with SULPHAMINOL. This procedure is repeated every 2 or 3 days five or six times,—using [30-45 grains] SULPHAMINOL each time. If then no healthy brood survives, the swarm must be fed.

"The result of the first application made by WEISS was that, after two days, when the hive was opened, the brood presented a light, clear color; in several parts cells were observed being cleaned. Hereupon the application of SULPHAMINOL was continued, as above directed. After a fortnight a large number of covered and open healthy broods were discerned. After 20 days it was necessary to enlarge the hive; new combs having been built in the meantime, every cell of which contained fresh, healthy deposits.

"SULPHAMINOL is prompt and certain of success, and stands unrivaled by any other remedy or method of treatment in ROTTEN-BROOD; its beneficial influence is always noticeable in less than two days. It is to be doubted that a relapse will ever occur."

Besides these valuable results, WEISS'S experiments furnish strong evidence of the absolute innocuousness of SULPHAMINOL to the higher organisms, inasmuch as even such delicate creatures as bees tolerate the substance well.

SULPHAMINOL FOR APICULTURE.

In the fall of 1889, the Provincial Ontario Department of Agriculture, in view of the wide-spread prevalence of Rotten-brood in its territory, issued the following ordinance (compliance with which is enforced by fine and imprisonment, when needed):

"The APOICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO must annually appoint a chief and a deputy-inspector,—both to serve one year. The

inspector shall visit every apiary, as soon as directed by the President of the Society. In case he finds the Apiary diseased, he shall order the affected swarms, together with the hives to be destroyed by fire, or to be treated in the manner considered most suitable by him."

The inspectors proceed in one of two ways; either they destroy, by fire, the bees and everything with which these have come into contact or they follow the "starvation-plan" In the latter the affected swarms are swept from their hives,—preferably toward evening,—into a clean, empty hive, and locked up for 48 hours, to "starve out" the disease,—in which process necessarily a great many of the bees are also destroyed. (The hives of the affected swarms are, of course, likewise burned or melted-out.)

All the loss of valuable property necessarily involved in pursuance of the above processes can be completely avoided by the proper use of SULPHAMINOL. This thoroughly roots out the disease without injuring the bees or their work in the least.

[The above is taken from supplement to Merck's Bulletin, April, 1891. We have no desire to comment at present, but our columns are open to anyone wishing to reply to the above.—Ed.]

Keeping Combs in the Cellar.

On a recent visit to Mr. S T. Pettit, Belmont, Ont., the question of keeping combs in the cellar came up. Mr Pettit stated that he had tried the plan this summer, and the following questions were asked:

How did you succeed?

I kept the combs in the hives and found that those hives with the combs spaced half-an-inch apart and with but little pollen remained free from moth larvae, those much closer together and with a good deal of pollen were badly attacked and in some cases entirely destroyed.

Did you see any other objection to keeping them in the cellar?

Yes, in every case without the exception of a comb, they were covered with mould, How was the cellar kept, closed or open?

When the combs were first placed in the cellar, both doors which leads to the outside and windows were left open. After a few days the combs were examined and found very badly attacked. I then took them out to the light going over every comb separately, freeing them from the small larvae which at that stage had not done much harm.

They were returned to the cellar putting

in additional fresh combs. closing the door and windows. They all kept much freer from moth and did not mould any worse either. I find that in a cellar which is kept closed there will be less tendency to mould unless opened late in the evening and closed early in the morning.

How can you account for this?

The outside temperature in the day time as a rule is higher than the temperature of the cellar, the higher the temperature the greater the amount of moisture the atmosphere can hold in suspense, when this enters the cellar which during the summer is cooler the moisture condenses. If opened at night the temperature of the outside and cellar are usually much the same.

If you do not like to keep comb in the cellar, how would you keep them?

With combs I have wintered and the hives closed tightly to prevent the entrance of the moth, I have no trouble whatever. With combs which for various reasons may be taken from the bees during the summer up to the time that the moth ceases to do its destructive work, I have always had difficulty. I have not found any method really satisfactory. I have tried putting them outside in hives left open and they would sometimes be alright for weeks, whether the spiders helped to protect them or not I do not know, later on I have found them in a bad state. I have tried brimstoning occasionally, but they are of course liable to attack again, and it leaves an odour about the combs which I think objectionable.

Did you ever try carbolic? Insects are known to have a very strong objection to the odour of carbolic acid.

¶ No. I have tried in limited way hanging about an inch apart in an airy place. My impression now is that this is the best way and I shall resort to it next season unless some can suggest something better. Let me emphasize the necessity of having the combs out of hives and hanging at least one inch apart, where the air can circulate freely.

Do you find any difference between the black and the Italian bees for protecting their combs in the hives from the moth?

Yes, a very marked difference in favor of the Italians. I found the moth unusually bad this year and in some instances, although the bees mastered them in the end, they were quite numerous in some hives. There were two cases in which I picked out the moth larvae and they did not get the opportunity, no doubt they would have mastered them in the end. I do not like to say this much against the black bees. I

highly appreciate their superior work in building comb honey.

I suppose if any colonies had been weak the moth might have destroyed them?

Yes, undoubtedly, and in such cases the difference between the black and Italian would be still more marked. If half Italian blood they are just as good, but just as the Italian blood diminishes, I find they are defective in fighting the moth, and I have bees in all grades.

A NEW DISCOVERY.

HONEY VINEGAR FOR FREEING COMBS
FROM GRANULATED HONEY,
POLLEN, ETC.

JOHN KEDRICK.

Having read the question asked in *THE CANADIAN BEE-JOURNAL* of how to take granulated honey from the comb, and not noticing any report, I am tempted to contribute my little mite to your interesting publication, the method to be employed, which will prove very satisfactory if the correct method is pursued.

First take the cappings, after the honey has been drained out, and put them into a tub of luke warm water and allow them to remain their for twenty-four hours or longer, then squeeze the cappings from the liquid. This liquid will be ready for use in the course of six months.

Then uncap the comb, and place it in the liquid. Allow it to remain there for twelve or twenty-four hours according to the strength of the liquid. Your comb will come out perfectly clean, without being injured. Old comb may be cleaned in the same way.

This liquid for cleaning the comb may be formed in another way, i. e. in a gallon of water put about a pound of honey, and let it stand for some time. The length of time would vary according to the temperature of the place. If kept in a warm place it would be ready for use sooner than if kept in a cool place.

In conclusion I would state that after trying about every method, I have proved the above method to be a great success.

New Dublin, Ont.

He that is of the opinion th. money
do everything may well be su. ected of
ing everything for money.

Bee-Keeping in Sweden.

—JOHN FORSELL.

The keeping of bees in Sweden is very old. Our old stories or legends tell that our forefathers drank mead at their feasts, and one of our heathen kings, Fiolmer, drowned in a mead vat. In the most celebrated of our old stories, Fritiofs story, translated also to English, King Bele says:

With hops brews the mead
Not only the honey
Lay steel in sword
And earnest in the joy, O King!

During the middle-ages, in Gustaf I, time about 100 years later, honey was a tax object, so in forms us the accounts of Calmen Castle for 1560, that there was stored 50 tons (1900 gallons) of honey (tax-honey). Ground logs were the only bee-hives in use until the 17th century, when bee hives of straw (straw-ships) from Germany and Scotland was introduced.

The oldest bee-book in Swedish language is by Isaius Erici, and is printed in 1685.

Among bee books from the old times there are two, which are very remarkable, viz: Captain Martin Fricwald, printed in Stockholm, 1728, and pastor Samuel Lindus (a brother of Carl von Luine), printed in Wexio 1768. The former is the first of our bee-keepers, who attempt to prevent swarming. His non-swarving system is an improved method of the Englishman John Sedde (new discovery of an excellent method of Bee-houses London 1675), and Josef Warder (Time Amazon etc., London, 1720) and is founded on the following:

1st. That bees always begin their work in the upper part of the stock.

2nd. That bees swarm for no other cause than that they have no open space under the brood nest.

Fricwald's hive consists of 3 boxes placed one upon another and was like the magazine hive, which Christ in Germany invented 10 years later.

Dr. Samuel Lindus invented the round shaped straw hive made of wreaths of straw. This hive is still in use in several places. Another straw hive, which has been introduced lately is the Kemitz hive so called after its inventor, a schoolmaster Kemitz in East-Prussia, Germany. Hives with movable combs are to be found here in many kind as Heddon's hive, introduced by the editor of "Suensh Bitidning," H.

Stalhammen, Cowan's hive, Dathe's hive, Ostgota hive, Vestmanland hive, etc.

Generally, apiculture during 19th century has gone back in the northern parts of Europe. This is a natural result of a higher agriculture. Cultivating of Swiss chard and especially sugar-beets has on many places reduced profits in bee-keeping to a point that bee-keeping on such places is no more remunerative.

British Markets.

DEAR SIR,—When I began reading the C. B. J., which is now more than a year ago, I was much pleased with the practical common-sense which it contained, and so with each succeeding issue, it is becoming more and more useful to the bee-keeper. Now, Mr. Editor, it is for more information especially re dark honey that I am writing, as well as to give you this word of cheer. I took this year from 42 colonies spring count, something over a ton of comb honey nearly all dark, being buckwheat and golden rod. 1st. I would like to know if comb honey can be shipped to the old countries with any degree of certainty of it arriving in a marketable shape and about what price per lb. or section can be realized for it, viz. dark honey or light in the $4\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ section. Also what can be got for extracted. I thought by what you said in the last Journal that you would be willing to give this information. My reason for asking is that I may judge better how to manage my bees for next summer, whether to run for comb or extracted. I put in for winter 76 colonies all with 30 lbs. of stores. If they winter well I expect to have more white honey next summer, as I have a nice field of Alsike clover from them to work upon. I had one acre of it this year and threshed from it 6 bushels of seed, I think my bees deserve some of the credit for giving it a thorough fertilization, although there was little honey in it this year.

M. C. BEAUPRE.

Forestville, Ont.

[The above was written over a year ago and misplaced. Yes, we believe, that arrangements can be made to ship with safety well filled sections of comb honey. That is where the cells are filled and capped next the wood, not as most comb honey is put upon the market. We think a paying

price can be secured, also that a good market can be developed in Great Britain and Germany, the prices realized will be quite as good as those secured by many in Canada to-day. There is one trouble we do not produce enough money to constantly supply the European market and the surplus production is confined to a small portion of the Dominion; then there are seasons when we have no honey to export. By increasing the output and extending the area of production we could supply honey the year round. We have the following letter which helps to explain the position.—Ed.]

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE,
Imperial Institute Road,
London, April 30th, 1896.

Messrs. Goold, Shapley & Muir Co., Ltd.,
Brantford, Ont.

Gentlemen,—

Your letter of 16th inst. only reached me this morning.

I have under order a special show case to display canned goods, etc., and should be very pleased to have samples of honey to go with them:

As you propose sending over a small exhibit I would suggest your including samples of the various packages in which you put up the honey and a few bottles or glasses that I can give to some of the large concerns like the army, navy stores, etc.

The circulars which have reached this morning appear to refer to bee-keepers' supplies. Do you propose making an exhibit of these goods here in addition to honey?

I should be very happy to see if anything can be done in the way of introducing your honey, but in addition to samples, you must let me have full details of every kind; your lowest price and terms and also the rates of freight to London, Liverpool, Glasgow and Bristol, in any case the two former. The heavy freights charged from inland points in Canada and the United Kingdom are a serious obstacle in connection with many Canadian goods. In any case there is no object in my approaching any of the English houses until I can tell them exactly what the goods are going to cost laid down, and unless you quote c. i. f. prices at the above mentioned points, you must name your f. o. b. prices Brantford or any other Canadian point with the rates of freight, thence to the United Kingdom ports. I conclude that you have large supplies and can ship regularly. Many of the large concerns will give colonial goods

the preference over foreign at even prices, and it is possible that trade might be worked up. As the show case is to be ready in three weeks time, and the summer season, when we always have a large number of visitors, starts on May 9th, I would suggest your despatching the new samples at once if convenient. I conclude that freight, etc. will be prepaid, as we have no funds here available for the purpose unless specially furnished by the Government.

Yours faithfully,

HAMION WATSON,
Canadian Curator.

N. B. Have you already any customers over here?

[Another exhibit has been sent, but we could not promise a constant supply of honey.—Ed.]

A Laugh in Church.

She sat on the sliding cushion,
The dear wee woman of four;
Her feet in their shiny slipper,
Hung dangling over the floor.
She meant to be good; she had promised;
And so, with her big brown eyes,
She stared at the meeting-house windows
And counted the crawling flies.

She looked far up at the preacher;
But she thought of the honey bees
Droning away in the blossoms
That whitened the cherry trees,
She thought of the broken basket,
Where, curled in a dusky heap,
Three sleek, round puppies with fringed
ears
Lay snuggled and fast asleep.

Such soft, warm bodies to cuddle,
Such queer little hearts to beat,
Such swift, round tongues to kiss,
Such sprawling, cushiony feet!
She could feel in her clasping fingers
The touch of satiny skin,
And a cold wet nose exploring
The dimples under her chin.

Then a sudden ripple of laughter
Ran over the parted lips,
So quick that she could not catch it
With her rosy finger tips.
The people whispered: "Bless the child"
As each one waked from a nap;
But the dear wee woman hid her face
For shame in her mother's lap.

—N. O. Time Democrat

Honey as Food--Why it Should be Eaten.

BY PROF. A. J. COOKS.

There are four kinds of food that are necessary to health and life. These are the inorganic elements, like water, salt, phosphate and carbonate of lime, etc.; the non-nitrogenous organic—so-called because they owe their origin to organic nature, and contain no nitrogen—and the nitrogenous. The second class—the non-nitrogenous organic—contain oxygen, hydrogen and carbon, illustrated in starch, the various sugars and the fats. The last all contain nitrogen, and resemble in many ways the white of an egg, and so often called albuminoids. Muscle, white of an egg, cheese, and blood albumen, are illustrations of the nitrogenous food elements. That we need all of these in our food, is shown in the fact that we hunger for them if they are not represented, or if they are too scantily represented in our food. Again, milk and egg, which may be regarded as typical food, contain all of these substances.

In this article, we are concerned only with the second class of food principles—the non-nitrogenous organic. Of these, the fats do not interest us at present, although important in all complete food rations. Bees get their albuminous and fatty food elements in the pollen. We thus have before us now only the starch and sugars. These not only contain oxygen, hydrogen, and carbon, but always contain the oxygen and hydrogen in proportion to form water, that is, two atoms of hydrogen to one of oxygen. Thus the formula for starch is $C_6 H_{10} O_5$, and of water is $H_2 O$. From the fact that starch and sugar contain oxygen and hydrogen in proportion to form water, they are called carbo-hydrates. The carbo-hydrates, then, including starch, and all sugars, as cane sugar, which includes beet sugar, and maple sugar, milk sugar, and all the glucose or reducing sugars, are very important food elements, so important that we are not left, as in case of most foods, to the chance of securing them in our food that we eat, but the liver is constantly forming liver sugar, which is very much like the sugar of honey. The liver, then, is a marvelous chemist, for it can do what no human chemist can do—form sugar, though we only eat the purest muscle, like the beef's heart. To change nitrogenous material into carbo-hydrates, is a wondrous transformation, that man has never yet been able to perform. The bee can, and does, do it. In our early

development, before the liver is sufficiently formed to be functionally active, a purely pre-natal organ—the placenta—forms sugar. We all know how children long for candy. This longing voices a need, and is another evidence of the necessity of sugar in our diet.

Until a comparatively recent date cane-sugar was unknown, if we except maple sugar, and that must have been a very unimportant food article. Thus, in the olden time honey formed the almost exclusive sugar, and so must have been a very important substance. We know by the references to it in classic writings, and in the Bible, that it was held in very high regard, as well it might be, for it, with starch, composed the entire stock of carbo-hydrates to be drawn upon by the caterer of the olden times, as he worked to satisfy the needs, or, what is about the same thing, the appetites of his patrons.

I have been told by some excellent physicians that they thought that some of the worst diseases of modern times—especially Bright's disease of the kidneys—was far more prevalent than formerly and they thought it due to the large consumption of cane sugar, which was unknown in the long ago. It seems to me that a little study of the subject may explain this, if it be true, and may give us two valuable hints—the one to eat more honey; the other, to take special pains to give children all the honey that they wish, and at every meal-time in the hope to lessen the amount of cane-sugar that they will eat. They like and crave sugar, because they need it to nourish them, and so given plenty of sugar in the honey, the need will be met, and the hunger for candy and cane-sugar will be less keen.

The digestion of food is simply to render it osmotic, or capable of being taken through an organic membrane, capable of being absorbed. We eat starch; it is non-osmotic, and would lie in the stomach and intestines indefinitely, except that by digestion it is changed to a glucose like sugar, which is very osmotic, and so easily absorbed from the aliment canal into the blood. Cane-sugar, though somewhat osmotic, is not readily absorbed, nor is it readily assimilated, even though it pass into the blood. Thus cane-sugar must be digested or changed to a glucose like sugar.

Bees gather nectar from the flowers, and as they sip it, or draw, it from the flowers, they mingle with it a kind of saliva or ferment from their upper head gland, and the large glands of the thorax, and thus transform it to honey, which contains almost exclusively, a reducing sugar, and not cane-sugar. Thus bees do to nectar what we do

to cane-sugar—they transform it to a more osmotic and more assimilable glucose like sugar. We call this in our case digestion of the cane-sugar, and it is just the same in case the bees do it. If anyone prefers he may call it "transformation." In any case, it makes honey a safer food than cane-sugar, and we do well to eat it more generally; and it is especially desirable as food for children.

Children should be given all the honey at each meal-time that they will eat. It is safer; will largely do away with the inordinate longing for candy and other sweets, and in lessening the desire will doubtless diminish the amount of cane-sugar eaten. Then if cane-sugar does work mischief with health, the harm may be prevented. There can be no doubt but that in eating honey our digestive machinery is saved work that it would have to perform if we ate cane-sugar; and in case it is over-worked and feeble, this may be just the respite that will save from a break-down.

Again if cane-sugar is absorbed without change, it will be removed by the kidneys, and may result in their break-down; and so physicians may be correct in asserting that the large consumption of cane-sugar by the 19th century man, is harmful to the great eliminators—the kidneys—and so a menace to health and long life.

It may be urged in reply to the above, that honey is a poison to many. This is not the sugar of the honey, but some other element, very likely the formic acid, or perhaps the extract from the flowers. It seems most likely that the deleterious element is the formic acid, added to the sweet by the bee. This keeps the honey from fermentation, and is not harmful to many; only occasionally a person is unable to eat it,

Claremont, Cal.

PUSH THE DAILY USE OF HONEY.

One of Dr. Mille's straws in Gleaning's reads thus:

"If all the cake and all the cooked sweets were utterly banished from the table, and Nature's own sweet—honey—substituted therefor, I believe it would add greatly to the health, happiness and longevity of the Nation."

It seems to us that bee keepers have been too long bending all their energies toward a greater production of honey, instead of spending a part of their effort in extending its use. Ten times as much honey as is now consumed should be used on our tables as a daily food.

Prof. Cook gives an exceedingly interesting article on page 641 on this very subject. It will repay a careful reading.

It will not do to cease telling the great

sweet-loving public about the special merits of honey. Information concerning its value as a food must be kept before the multitude. The trouble is, so many have come to consider honey as medicine, and use it only in medicinal quantities. This is all wrong. The general public should be informed that if honey was used more regularly as a food, there would be less need of thinking of any kind of medicines.

Last week we received the following from Dr. Gallup, of Santa Ana, Calif., which is right in line with what we have written above.

HONEY AS FOOD AND MEDICINE.

I think I have never given my views on the above subject to the readers of the American Bee Journal, so here goes:

Honey passes directly into the circulation from the stomach, without any digestion; therefore, it is a perfect food, and if one eats too much at any one time it acts as a gentle laxative, and never leaves any irritation behind like drug irritants.

Of course some people cannot eat honey, as it creates distress, cramps, etc., in the stomach, but such people have diseased stomachs, caused by taking poisonous drugs, and irritating the ganglionic nerves that supply the gastric juices. The pneumogastric and ganglionic nerves are always inflamed or congested in all cases of dyspepsia or diseased stomachs. These nerves can always be regulated and put in a normal condition *in time* by proper manipulation with the hands, and never with poisonous drugs. Honey never hurts a normal stomach.

Now, for creating a home market for honey: Myself and three little children on our four h 60-pound can of honey since December, 1895, and it is now September, 1896. The children have free and unlimited access to the honey at every meal in the year, and healthier, more wiry, tough little chaps you cannot scare up. Right here is a home demand for honey. Hurrah for our side!

DR. E. GALLUP.

Now what can be done to get people interested in a greater use of honey? So far we believe there is nothing superior to Newman's little pamphlet, entitled, "Honey as Food and Medicine." One of these should be in every home, and its reading and study should be urged. Most people are not fools. They know a good thing especially when they taste it. Honey touches the senses. And bee-keepers should see to it that plenty of it is found in every pantry of the land.

In order that every honey producer give the pamphlet—"Honey as Food and Medicine"—a trial, in help; to create a greater home demand for honey, we

mail 25 copies for 65 cents; 50 copies for \$1; or 100 copies for \$1.50. You can write your name and address on them, or put it on with a rubber stamp.

Now is the time to begin to distribute literature on the use of honey—as cooler weather is just coming on.

[The above is from the American Bee Journal. We have for years contended that not ten but 100 lbs. of honey could easily be used, where one is used to-day. Bee-keepers with rare exceptions have failed to make a proper effort to create a market for honey. What should have been everybody's business has been nobody's business. Unfortunately too, some by putting unripe extracted honey and travel-stained, soiled comb honey upon the market, have even stopped up the chances open to us. Let us have a new era in bee-keeping and unite in putting the industry upon the basis upon which it should stand.—Ed.]

Ontario Bee-keepers' Convention.

Programme for Annual Meeting to be Held in the City Council Chamber, Toronto, on the 8th, 9th and 10th of December, 1896.

Tuesday, 11 a. m. Directors's meeting; 2 p. m. minutes of previous meetings; 2.30 p. m. secretary's report; 3 p. m. Com. on laws report; 3.30 p. m. Mr. Pettit on legislation; 4 p. m. question drawer on management of apiary; 8 p. m. president's address; 8.15 p. m. paper by J. W. Carling; 8.45 p. m. discussion on above.

Wednesday, 9th; 9 a. m. Captain Hetherington, Cherry Valley, N. Y.; 9.20 a. m. discussion; 10 a. m. treasurer's, auditor's, and affiliated societies' reports: 11 a. m. business; 2 p. m. election of officers, E. Hoshal's paper, "principles of summer management, discussion; 8 p. m. what should Canadian Bee-keepers take in regard to the Bee-keepers' union of North America and the North American Bee-keepers' Association; 9 a. m. discussion on the method of rendering old combs; 9.30 p. m. discussion on wintering bees.

Thursday, 10th: 9 a. m. paper by C. W.

Post, on "Building up of bees in spring; 10 a. m. discussion on Granulation and Liquefying honey, question drawers.

COPY OF THE PROPOSED BY-LAWS.

No. 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, as how printed.

No. 3. The time and place of holding the next annual meeting shall be fixed by the members present at the annual meeting.

No. 4. The board of directors shall consist of one president, two vice-presidents and nine directors, elected one from each of the following divisions:

1. Stormont, Dundas, Glengary, Prescott and Cornwall.

2. Lanark, Renfrew, Carleton, Russell and Ottawa.

3. Frontenac, Kingston, Leeds, Grenville and Brockville.

4. Hastings, Addington, Lennox and Prince Edward.

5. Durham, Northumberland, Peterborough, Victoria and Haliburton.

6. York, Ontario, Peel, Cardwell and Toronto.

7. Wellington Waterloo, Wentworth, Dufferin, Halton and Hamilton.

8. Lincoln, Niagara, Welland, Haldimand and Monck.

9. Elgin, Brant, Oxford and Norfolk.

10. Huron, Bruce, Grey and Perth.

11. Essex, Kent, Lambton, Middlesex and London.

12. Algoma, Simcoe, Muskoka, Parry Sound, Nipissing and Manitoulin.

Also one director from the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm.

No. 6. Add the words "subject to approval by the executive."

No. 12. Any county or district Bee-keepers' Association in the province of Ontario may become affiliated to this association on payment of five dollars, which shall be paid to the secretary on or before the first day of June in each year.

No. 14. Add the words "and for no other purpose."

No. 15. Read "December" instead of "January."

No. 19. Each affiliated association shall be entitled to the privilege of two representatives at the meeting of this association in addition to those who are already members of this association and such representatives shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of members of this association except voting at the election of officers.

See Agricultural and Arts Act, 1895, chapter.

WM. COUSE, Sec'y O. B. K. A.
Streetsville.

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS....

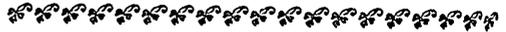
of the Twenty-Seventh Annual Convention
of the

North American Bee-Keepers' Association

Held at

Lincoln, Nebraska, October, 7th, and 8th, 1896.

By Dr. A. B. Mason, etc.



THE convention was called to order by the President, A. I. Root, of Medina, Ohio, at 10:15 a.m., in the chapel of the State University, at the close of the students' chapel service. During this service most of the bee-keepers present were seated on the platform, with the Chancellor of the University.

Master Johnnie Heath, the 12-year-old son of H. E. Heath, the editor of the Nebraska Farmer, gave a piano solo, entitled "Ben-Hur March."

Then came the following paper by Hon. E. Whitcomb, of Friend, Nebr., on

IMPORTANCE OF WATERING IN THE APIARY.

Many bee-keepers have entirely overlooked the importance of bringing water into the apiary and thus allowing the bee to search for this much-needed article as best it can, and usually at a great loss to the colony, especially during the warm days in winter and early spring. Like the farm or dairy, it is a close attention to the small items that pays best, and negligence in the apiary is just as prolific of losses as when applied to any other industry. Many of us as bee-keepers do not consider the important uses to which water is applied in the apiary or the losses resulting from a neglect to fully and carefully supply it.

The necessity of water by the honey-bees is to dissolve honey which sometimes becomes candled in the cells, and in brood-rearing they can make but little progress without an abundant supply of water. In early spring, when compelled to go long distances to secure a supply from hydrants, tanks, brooks or drains, the losses will be beyond comprehension, and the careful apiarist is fully aware of the value of these little water-gatherers at this season of the year. He could well afford to lose four times their number a month or two later on. It is apparent that many cases of so-called spring-dwindling is traceable to the want of water of the

proper temperature supplied at convenient places in the apiary.

The advantages of providing water for the bee is, first, to avoid the disease called thirst; second, when allowed to forage away from the apiary they obtain, oftentimes, that which is impure and of so low a temperature that it is injurious to the delicate organism of the bee, and it becomes chilled and cannot return to the hive.

To obviate these difficulties I bring the water in close proximity to the colony, in all its purity, and in a condition of temperature best suited to meet the requirements of the delicate form of the bee. Thus it may secure an abundant supply on making the shortest possible journey to and fro, and also at a temperature even warmer than the surrounding atmosphere. Many of us have taken great pains in locating the apiary to secure the most sheltered point, where the chilling winds of spring may be the least liable to reach them, and at the same time have allowed our bees to wander out perhaps a mile into the cool currents of air in quest of water, perchance sipping the water from tanks or streams almost ice cold, and yet our colonies wintered fairly well, but we complain of losing a great per cent. by spring dwindling, and giving the matter little thought, water had the most to do with our difficulties.

To avoid this almost entirely, I have adopted the plan of supplying an abundance of pure drinking water in easy access to the colony. To accomplish this as effectively and cheaply as possible, I use the one-half gallon fruit-jar, removing the screw-top (any tight vessel will answer well), and taking an inch board to eight inches square (the size is immaterial), with a small gauge or pocket-knife cut a groove diagonally across the block nearly from one corner to the opposite one, taking care not to cut the groove

quite to the corner. The center of this block may be cut out to suit your fancy, and may be turned if so desired, and have an excellent and cheaply devised watering apparatus.

Now fill the jar with water, placing the lock over the mouth of the jar, invert the whole, and set in convenient places or desired points in the apiary. The points I claim for this device are its simplicity and cheapness, and after the breeding season is past, and there is little need of watering, the jar is of much utility in the kitchen as it was last year while the good house-wife was putting up the winter's supply of fruit.

Again, when the weather is so mild that the bee can fly in quest of water, the sun's rays shining upon the water through the inverted jar, warms its contents quickly, and the bee gets a supply without being chilled or a failure to return with the much-needed water or even a danger of wet feet. To avoid the difficulty of readily attracting the bee to its new watering place, I would recommend slightly sweetening the water in these jars for a day or two, and everything will move on smoothly afterwards.

So far as our observation has gone, during the height of brood-rearing, and taking no note of evaporations, five well-stocked colonies will use the majority of one of these jars of water daily.

Thus the careful, far-seeing apiarist will be able at once to see the importance of watering in the apiary, and also of lessening the flight to and fro, and assuring its purity and temperature best suited to the delicate organism of the honey-bee.

E. WHITCOMB.

After Mr. Whitcomb had read his paper, he said he had a jar with him with which he would like to illustrate his method of watering, it having been illustrated in the Institute work of the State. He said:

"I water my bees in the most crude manner possible, by taking a quart jar, fill it with water, invert it and set it on a block about eight inches square, in which you will see grooves are cut. Enough water seeps out to afford the bees drink. Mr. Davidson, of Omaha, desired me to come and see him. I went, and together we looked over his bee-yard. I found he had chosen every good place for his apiary; the man declared as we went along that his bees were not there. It was sheltered where his apiary was, and it was warm where we were, but they must have water. He went to the hydrant and found them there, where they got the cold water and could not get it, and he said he had lost many of them. After this experience, he got a few jars,

and has since said that his bees were doing finely. A few months ago I visited him, and found him delighted with his new plan."

Pres. Root—You do not tell of the gallon jar, but only of the quart.

Mr. Whitcomb—The size is immaterial.

Mrs. A. L. Amos, Cobourg, Nebr.—I would like to say that we must not depend too much upon the jars. I had quite a number, and they will break.

Dr. C. C. Miller, Marengo, Ill.—Do you keep these jars going all the time? We don't need as many jars in the fall as we do at the time of breeding. The bee must have water to carry on the breeding, and many of them never get back if they encounter some cold wave.

L. D. Stilson, York, Nebr.—I use hotbed sash to save the lives of my bees. I set the glass up so that the rays of the sun will reflect upon the jars, and I find this adds to warmth and to saving the life of the bee. Two hotbed sash will cover a dozen jars or more.

Rev. E. T. Abbott St. Joseph, Mo—Cannot tin cans be used?

Mr. Abbott's question was answered in the affirmative.

J. H. Masters, Nebraska City, Nebr.—I have always watered my bees, but I have a different plan. I have what we call a goose-neck hydrant. This is a pipe we use, and we can run off the water at any time. I use an old stove bottom, put in some hay or straw, and then set it under the hydrant and turn it on so that it will just drip. I then set it where the sun's rays can strike it, and it gets warmed up. This is the best plan for watering that I have ever tried. I am satisfied that the only reason that I have never been troubled with spring dwindling of bees is the fact that I have always kept my bees watered. I notice that the bees prefer cool water; they have been seen in great number around the drippings from the ice-box instead of going to the hydrant; if the days are a little cool they go to hydrant all the time.

J. S. Lovell, Council Bluffs, Iowa.—I was never so impressed with the fact that bees are no exception to the animate nature, as I was last summer when crossing Valley country, this State. I found the bees at the pump; they were there in great numbers, hundreds of them, so we could hardly lead the stock there to drink. We went on farther and hitched; these bees went there and took possession of the water tub. I shall tell the gentleman to fix to water his bees. I believe they get thirsty and must drink.

T. R. Delong, Angus, Nebr.—I am interested in bee-work somewhat, and I have

been thinking ever since Mr. Whitcomb read his paper that I had neglected my bee-watering in the apiary. My bees went to the water-tank, but the principal reason why I have not adopted that system of watering is the fact that the Little Blue river runs near my apiary, which is protected and well shaded by fruit-trees. I never let the bees out in cool weather, and I don't think I have suffered any loss. I shall try this system of watering in my orchard, and have it adopted throughout the community in which I live. I don't think I suffered any loss from a cool current of atmosphere.

Question—How do you keep your bees from flying?

Mr. DeLong—I close the openings. I am real interested in bee-culture; when I hear the bees humming I can usually tell the condition of the atmosphere.

Dr. Miller—I would like to ask how many there are present who make provision for watering their bees? I suppose many don't do anything with this matter.

This question was put; seven watered their bees and four do not water them, others not voting.

Fred Biesemier, Sterling, Nebr.—I make provision for watering my bees, and I would say that I use the jars, and never have any trouble as to losing bees, by their getting chilled.

Mr. Stilson—In regard to watering bees, I would say that my apiary is located in such a manner as to be sheltered on three sides by frame buildings, and a fence on the other side; and 150 feet from my apiary is a pond. I have another pond 200 feet away and I find that bees watered in this manner go to the nearer place; in going this distance in cold weather many freeze.

Some member arose and said: "I use stone jars holding 5 or 6 gallons, and I think there is no better plan than this."

Mr. Stilson—I have a word to say with reference to the jars being placed in the sun. This is a good plan, as the sun's rays will warm the atmosphere around the jars, and also the reflection of the sun on the jar will warm the water. Some times, in cool weather, I have taken a sheet of glass and put over the jar so as to reflect the heat on the jar, and in this way I have saved the lives of many of my bees.

Mr. Abbot—I do my chickens a service. I don't water my bees—I turn them in with the chickens. Perhaps some here do not know that chickens drink—I know they do. I use wooden boxes about 2 inches deep and 12 inches square; these boxes were made for bee-feeders, as they had been coated with beeswax. I set the boxes 6 or 8 inches

from the ground, then put a raised cover on the top so the chickens cannot get up and soil the water; in this way both bees and chickens can drink.

A member asked: "How do chickens like their associates?"

Mr. Abbott—The chickens don't care. Chickens have more sense than some people.

Do they drink together?

Mr. Abbott—yes.

Do you let them roost together?

Mr. Abbott—No sir; I do not. (laughter.) This is a very convenient way to water bees, and as I think more of my chickens than I do of my bees, of course I use this method.

Dr. A. B. Mason, of Toledo, Ohio—I water my bees with gallon jars, and salt the water to keep it pure, and put in corn-cobs or pieces of wood to keep the bees from being drowned.

(To be continued.)

Convention Notices.

The York County Bee Keepers' Association will meet at Unionville Wednesday Nov. 25th, 1896. First session 10 30 a.m. Afternoon session 1.30. p.m. Mr. R. F. Holtmann, Pres. O. B. K. A., is expected to be present.
L. MAPES, Secy.

BRANT COUNTY CONVENTION.

Brant Association will meet at the Court House, Brantford, Saturday, Nov. 21st, 5 p.m. Delegates to the Ontario Bee Keepers' Convention and other business will be transacted.

J. SHAVER, President.
C. EDMUNDSON, Secy.

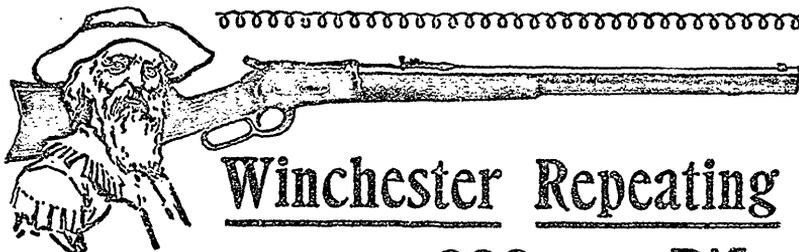
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R. F. HOLTERMANN, - - - EDITOR

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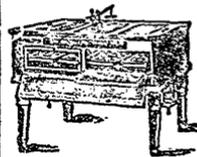
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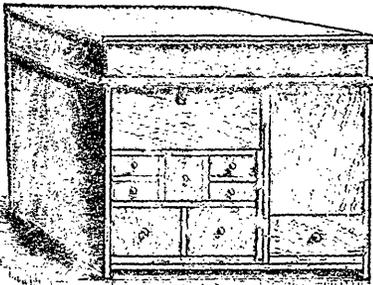
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