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THE



CANADIAN

Honey Producer.

Its Reading Columns for the advancement of Honey Producers exclusively.

Vol. 2.

BRANTFORD, JULY, 1888.

No. 5.

The Canadian Honey Producer,

PUBLISHED BY
E. L. GOOLD & Co.,
BRANTFORD, - - - - ONTARIO.

Published Monthly, 40 cents per year.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Subscription price of the Canadian Honey Producer is 40 cents a year. 3 subscriptions at one time, \$1.00 to one or more addresses.

Remittances for fractions of a dollar may be made in Stamps, Canadian or American. The receipt for money sent will be given with the address in the next issue of the paper.

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TO CONTRIBUTORS.

We will always be pleased to forward sample copies to any.

We will thankfully receive for publication items of interest to Bee-Keepers, and we would like to have every issue of the paper contain at least one good article bearing directly upon the management of the Apiary for the coming month.

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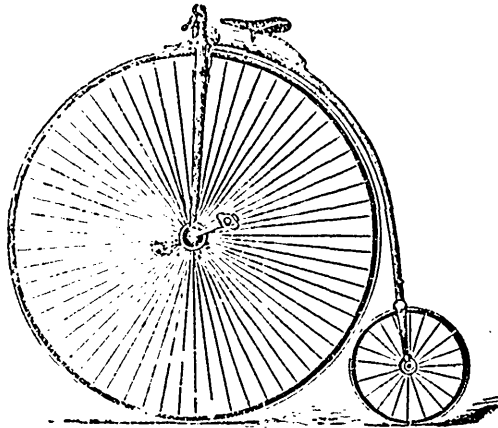
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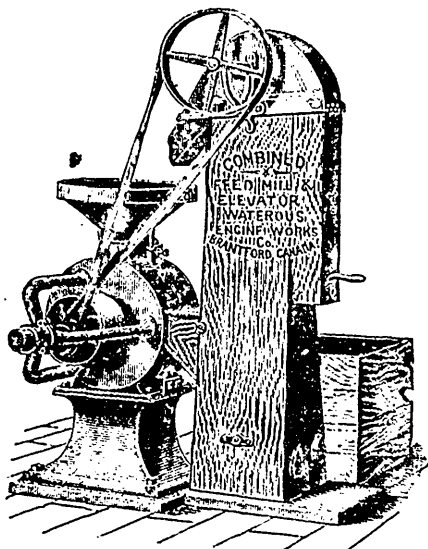
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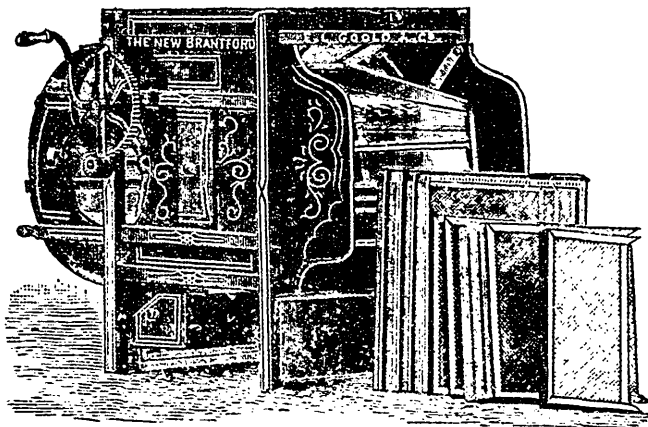
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THE BEE-HIVE

Contains Questions and Answers, Whit and Yumer (comic) Departments, and is the only Bee-Paper publishing G. M. Doolittle's Method of rearing Queens; being the most natural way yet discovered, and like all of Mr. D.'s writings, practical. 4 Nos. of *Bee-Hive* giving above method, 15c. or *Bee-Hive* and *Canadian Honey Producer* one year for 60c.

E. H. COOK, Andover, Toll Co., Conn.

THE CANADIAN HONEY PRODUCER.

Vol. 2. July, 1888. No. 5.

North American Bee-Keepers'
Association.

We learn from Doctor A. B. Mason, President of the above Association, that all but six members have voted for having the next annual meeting at Columbus, O. The convention will be held either from Oct. 3-5 or Oct. 10-12 next. This will suit us all very well we should say.

The British Bee Journal shows us a section which is grooved all around on inside and in center of section. The idea is to place the foundation in it, and avoid pop holes. That it will do the latter we doubt very much. The section has only to be run over a saw to give the groove and it might be an advantage. The expense of trying would not be great.

Dr. A. B. Mason is still hard at work trying to make the apiarian department a success at the Iowa State Exposition. He writes in his jocular manner of beating the Canadians at Toronto. Anyone who does not know him might think that the Doctor meant what he says, but of course those who know him know that he has no thoughts of being able to beat the Canadians in anything. We must congratulate Doctor Mason however on aiming so high.

There is now no doubt that the yield from clover will be far below the average. Reports from different parts are conflicting: Adam Rohrof Drumbo, reports a good honey flow from Alsike. Ira Orvis, Whitby, writes: We have no clover of any account. Mrs. C. F. Holtermann, Fisherville, (Haldimand Co.) writes: Under date June 21st, bees doing nothing, one party lost six

from starving and is now feeding, another has had to feed, prospects are bad. Of course linden looks well, is loaded with blossom and last year's drought does not appear to have affected the thistle crop. Increase in light flows is greater than heavy and should be kept down. To date we have no swarms.

We note that in the display of apiarian supplies at Toronto the exhibitor of a comb honey super is compelled to show comb honey as taken from the hive. If the intention is to award the prize to the one who has the best comb honey in the super, it's object is a very unjust one, for the supply dealer with the most colonies would have the best chance of gaining the prize other things being equal; again the dealer with no hives at all should have an opportunity to compete as these prizes are for supplies, not honey. Although the prize list generally has been improved in several important points we think this question will lead to difficulties and gives the supply dealer who is most dishonest the best chance, for there is nothing to prevent him doctoring up a super, in short the prize will be almost valueless if the honey secured is considered and as before stated unjust to dealers who do not keep bees.

Closing the Honey Season.

Cambellford, June 11th, 1888.

Now that the honey season is almost upon us, it may not be amiss to say a few words on the subject of working, so that there may be no occasion to resort to feeding sugar syrup for winter stores. Every observant Bee-keeper soon becomes acquainted with the flora in his own localities, and so must know how late in the season there is likely to be a sufficient flow of honey to fill up the supers, and in going over them for what he supposes will be the last extracting, should leave at least half the frames filled with honey selecting those that have least drone comb in them. Then when the colonies are being prepared for winter those full frames may

take the place in the lower story of any empty ones. I have found it a good plan to extract about one-third from the bottom, when the frames are quite full before placing below.

Many Bee-Keepers have advocated crowding the bees on to as few frames as will hold sufficient stores for winter, but my experience has been different, and I now winter with 10 frames in the Jones' hive out of doors and never have the least mould or dampness on a frame. I also leave ten frames (the full number,) in a hive almost the same as the Jones' combination. Any colonies with division boards, and less frames never come out as strong in the Spring as those with the full number.

HENRIETTA F. BULLER.

Best time to finish Extracting.

As the seasons are so different in producing honey it is impossible to state any particular time to stop extracting. It is safe to continue as long as the honey flow continues, which any experienced Apiarian can tell by the action of the bees; they are not so busy and they very soon begin to draw around wherever there is honey exposed. They will try and get in at the windows of the honey room and the door if they are left open. The honey in the supers ought to be removed at once whenever the flow stops, and if there are any of the hives light, feed at once; first feed all poor unfinished sections; afterwards give them cards of comb full of honey saved for the purpose; examine in a week afterwards, or two weeks when the most of the brood will be hatched out of the comb as they might feel heavy when full of brood, but if light when the brood is all hatched out feed until they are the proper weight. The honey in the comb of the best supers taken off may be fed back one comb at a time, turn back one corner of the quilt, lay a couple of pieces wood on the top of the quilt, lay your card of honey on the cross pieces, cover up tight and when empty give them another comb until they have enough and your surplus combs will be nice and dry for storing away for another season. If your hives are well stored with good honey, plenty of young bees, a good queen when put into winter quarters, there will not be much danger in loosing many of them; they will come out strong in

the Spring. I am not much in favor of feeding syrup or any food made of sugar as long as you have plenty of honey, as it is the natural food of the bees, all feeding with honey ought to be done early, as soon as the honey flow ceases. The bees will not carry the honey out of the supers and store it in the brood chamber as long as the supers are left on, and if they choose to get very late honey of buckwheat they will store it below when the supers are taken off, not otherwise.

DR. DUNCAN.

Introduction of Queens.

J. E. POND.

Probably the matter of introducing queens will be one of as much interest as any other during the coming season, as queens are constantly dying off or becoming played out, and some means of replacing them is constantly being inquired about. With most of the methods now before the public, the length of time taken in introducing is a serious matter, as it involves the loss of the productive capacity of the queen, at a time when such loss can be illly sustained.

Some years ago I was interested in testing this matter and experimented quite largely in this direction. I made the results of my experiments public at the time, and since then have tested them time and time again, and as yet have never met with a failure. At this time I will state this method of introducing in brief, in hopes that some of your readers may be benefitted thereby. It is as follows:

On the early afternoon of a pleasant day when the bees are flying freely I remove the undesirable queen, taking care to destroy every trace or vestige of a queen cell if any exists. On the evening of the same day after the foraging bees have returned and all is quiet in the hive, the new queen is allowed to run in at the entrance, and under no circumstances should the hive be opened or any examination made therein for at least five days thereafter. I myself do not believe that bees recognize each other by any peculiar scent, but if any do or if the new queen is received two or three days before an opportunity to introduce her occurs, she may be put on top the frames of the hive she is to introduced into.

As I stated before, this method has always been a success with myself, and also with many others who have tested it at my suggestion; but even should it fail occasionally, (as any method may) the gain in time will far overbalance any possible loss in queens.

I give the method in order that it may be tested and reports made as to its success or otherwise.

No. Attleboro, Mass, U. S. April 10th, 1888.

WINTER PREPARATION.

J. E. POND.

Winter preparation is a matter of the utmost importance, for upon the care taken in this respect will depend largely the prospects of another year. This preparation should be begun early; in fact it cannot be commenced too soon after the honey flow ceases. Each bee-keeper should know enough of the flora of his locality to be able to determine when no more honey should be expected and, should then at once take care of the gathered crop and begin putting his colonies in shape to withstand a long winter's siege.

It makes but little difference in preparation, whether the bees are to be wintered on summer stands or not, so far as early labor is concerned, as the principles governing the matter are the same in both cases. The first thing necessary is to see that ample stores will be left in the brood chamber, and in position such that the bees can get at them at all times. I used the Langstroth hive, and consider that 7 frames spaced in the room allowed in Summer is about right. I have all preparations completed by Oct 1st, and they consist in having 7 frames filled and capped with pure honey in their upper half at least. The queen should be urged to deposit eggs as long as there is a prospect of their rearing brood that will take at least one flight before the wintersets in. Localities differ, so that it is impossible to set a date, each must decide for himself. I have not found that it makes much difference, wintering on summer stand: whether chaff or single walled hives are used, as I have been equally successful with both.

On or about the 1st of Oct. I see that ample stores are contained in the frames as stated above; I then put a "Hill's device" or its equivalent over tops of frames, covering the same in with a piece of old carpet or

something of the kind. I then put on an upper story, and fill in the same with forest leaves pressed loosely down, cover the bees up, give a large entrance, and leave them alone till the following spring. The "Hill's device" gives an inch or more of space over tops of frames and allows inter communication with every frame in the hive, without breaking up the cluster. I do not think that cold of itself kills our bees, but that want of stores or excess of moisture does so.

By giving ample stores we can guard against starvation.

The Hill's device allows the bees to travel freely and safely from one side the hive to the other, and the forest leaves allows the moisture to pass off out of top of hive, while at the same time retaining the necessary heat. Want of space demands that I should outline briefly, but I think that any Bee-Keeper can understand the principle stated. This may be varied as circumstances seem to require, but by using the principle as indicated, I have been able to winter on summer stands for years without 2 per cent of loss.

No. Attleboro, Mass, U. S., June, 8th, 1888.

OUR OWN APIARY.

June 5th.—Bees are still working well, and we have full upper stories on about half our colonies. It is somewhat strange when we reflect upon the change which has taken place as to swarming. At one time it appeared to be the pride and ambition of a Bee-Keeper to report an early swarm. Our aim has been for some time to prevent early swarming and for this cause and drawing out foundation, upper stories should be put on. Whilst upon this question of swarming it is well to say to beginners that at the door of close extracting and frequent swarming many winter losses can be laid. The supply dealer who advises the beginner to increase one colony to three or four must be short-sighted indeed, or very ignorant and short-sighted; for what advantage is to be derived from advising a man in a way that tends to the loss of his colonies during winter and as a result so many empty hives upon the market next Spring to be filled before others will be purchased. Keep down all increase by shade during the hot part of the day. Ventilation at entrance or above if taking

extracted honey, and should your colony swarm, place it upon the old stand, putting the old colony upon a new. This will give you all the worker force with the swarm and make the old colony so weak it is not very likely to swarm again. After the new swarm has started well below, often in about 2 days put the surplus case on parent colony upon the new, and if there is any honey to be got you will have it.

DARK HONEY.

It will be a little late but may still prevent some loss by saying: We are careful to remove all Spring honey from the combs as soon as we notice that the bees are working on clover. This dark honey will injure your light more than it is worth, and this dark can be used to feed back, make honey vinegar, or for baking purposes.

HONEY VINEGAR.

The above article is growing in favor; There is so much vinegar sold at the present day which is very injurious, no one knowing what is in it. Wise people will eagerly purchase home made pure honey vinegar, and Bee-Keepers should make a greater effort to introduce it at stores. It can be sold at a profit for less than other vinegar. We are making several barrels of it.

WAX.

We instruct hands in the apiary to loose no particles of comb, but place all in a box for the purpose. Much loss can be occasioned by carelessness. Bee-Keeping at the present day requires to be conducted with care and economy, the margin of profit one year with another is not so great that we can dispense with the qualities which are necessary to succeed in any other business.

May 14th. Bees are bringing in clover honey and storing in supers. We are extracting all honey in supers. The honey is inferior and if left in would injure very much the quality of incoming clover. One colony has upper and lower story full of brood and a second super has been put upon it to-day. This colony has built up without the aid of other colonies, without brood spreading and without stimulative feeding; what more can be done by any such assistance?

Our honey knives have been prepared for business. We find a great help is to have a

pail or pot of water on a coal oil stove and keep our knife in this, it is a great help in extracting, keeping the honey knife moderately warm. The water need not be *boiling*. Try it and you will be pleased.

June 20th.—Average colony gained 1½ lbs

June 21st.—Same colony gained nothing.

June 22nd.—Same colony gained 2½ lbs.

June 25th.—Same colony lost 1 lb.

June 26th.—Same colony gained 1 lb.

QUEEN REARING.

In our last issue we promised to give briefly the method of Queen Rearing. A book could only do justice to this subject and we should advise any one who wishes to rear queens to get one upon the subject. Three days before you want to start queen cells, make your colony queenless leaving them all brood and combs. The third day after being queenless remove all but one comb of brood and after several hours replace that comb by the comb which contains the larvæ you desire to raise your queens from, and add several combs of honey and pollen but only enough to leave your bees so crowded that they are forced to hang on the other side of a division board. If there is no natural honey flow, feed the bees a little every night, say one-half lb., to one lb.

There are different ways of giving the larvæ from which the bees are to raise queens. Bear in mind it is important that the little larvæ should be just in the right condition. Three days after the egg is deposited it hatches and the larvæ curls up and commences to feed, the moment the egg hatches it is in the proper condition for your object. If too old it will produce inferior queens, if younger the bees can do nothing with them. If some are not old enough and others the right age you will get fewer queen cells as they will not touch the eggs not hatched, therefore the above matter is important. You may start your cells by Doolittle's plan, namely, have cut out a quantity of caps the commencement of queen cells and stick these to the upper side of a hole in a comb cell pointing downward and transfer the larvæ with a tooth pick into the embro queen cells.

Another plan is to cut the comb containing the larvæ into strips, width of one cell shaving

the cell walls down and sticking them into the same position as the queen cells. Another plan is to cut holes in the comb containing your larvæ, so the larvæ you wish to raise queens from will be on the upper edge of the hole cut. In the two latter methods a phosphorus match should be inserted into any cells too far advanced or every second and third cells, the former to prevent inferior queens being raised from them, the latter to prevent cells from being built together; we learned this way of destroying larvæ from Alley. Mark the date on the frame at which you start the cells, ten days after the cells must be cut out and disposed of as desired and according to the object for which you secured them. We never raise a second batch of cells from these bees but give them the brood from the next colony we use for queen rearing and let them store honey if they can.

In all these operations care must be observed not to chill larvæ or rudely handle queen cells; do not shake bees from comb having queen cells. Do not raise queens from inferior stock. If you have certain drones you do not wish to mate with queens, you expect will be fertilized at a certain time, guard the entrance of that hive with perforated metal until that time has passed. If you are raising queen, under the queen rearing impulse, insert combs with eggs you desire to raise them from with edges cut and break all others down, or better still strengthen that colony if necessary to swarming impulse.

ON THE WING.

The afternoon of the 24th of May found us on board the mixed train for Stratford. Having several hours to wait in this place before leaving for St. Marys, we saw Mr. Myers of R. & J. H. Myers. They wintered fairly well and their bees were in average condition, the backward season having prevented the rapid building up which might be expected. At St. Marys we were met by Mr. Stennett's conveyance, and after half-an-hour's drive we reached the Apiary and Farm of Mr. Henry Stennett. Our readers will remember the death of Mrs. Stennett and later a daughter. Mrs. Stennett had taken care of the bees and was a great reader.

Her success in bee-keeping has been above the average, we believe an average yield of 225 lbs. has been secured from 50 colonies. Last year although a poor season an average of over 80 lbs. was secured. The ten frame Langstroth hive is used, some of them Root chaff hives. The bees are wintered outside: the bees are part Italian, being a cross between that and black. We here saw the nicest honey house it has been our fortune to see and we have seen many in Canada; a door gives entrance at the middle of one side; upon entering the building, immediately in front is a stairway which leads to a loft in which many light articles are stored. To your right are a series of narrow doors reaching from ceiling to floor, upon opening these we find strips so placed as to make supports for ends of top bars of frames and here one above another combs are slid each tier giving room for 20 to 40 combs. To the left is the honey room, where in large milk cans the honey is stored and it being on the South East corner of the room, the honey is kept very warm and is given every opportunity to ripen.

Mr. Stennett said their main trouble had been to get their money for Honey sold. Some instances were given and should several parties who have owed for over a year and will not even reply to inquiries, not settle shortly, it may be our duty to warn others against dealing with such. Mr. Stennett's farm is on the River Thames, a pretty place and it must be a good locality for bees.— Their bees are in a good condition.

On the morning of the 24th of May we embarked for Ailsa Craig, reaching there about noon.

THE APIARY OF F. ATKINSON,

President of the Middlesex Bee-Keepers' Association was next reached. We found friend Atkinson in the apiary. He uses the Gallop and Shuck hive. His bees wintered only fairly well, bad stores secured late in the fall was given as the reason. Mr. Atkinson winters outside in clamps. His bees are a mixture, he has had some very good honey seasons but like the rest of us the last two or three have been but indifferent honey seasons. After attending the Bee-Keepers' convention we returned to Stratford reaching this place 9 30 p. m., where upon the platform we found A. G. Willows; a drive by moonlight brought us 12.30 a. m. to Carlingford, and the apiary of A. G. Willows, a description of which we purpose giving in our next issue.

Brant Bee-Keepers' Association.

The above Association met at the Court House Brantford, Saturday 2 p. m., May 5th. Pres. Anguish in the chair. The first topic for discussion was that of affiliation with the Ontario. The advantages to be gained were brought out and a resolution passed that the secretary take the necessary steps to become affiliated.

O. McAlister and W. R. Brown were elected representatives for the coming year.

The question of what is best to do in the spring with queenless colonies was introduced by S. A. Dickie, he having a colony with fertile workers. The impression appeared to be general that if they had fertile workers the best plan would be to brimstone the bees, if not fertile workers such a course might be more doubtful, yet the majority thought it would not pay to purchase a queen unless there was considerable brood in the hive.

The reports of bees, which had been buried came next.

The president said that his five colonies had come out all alive but damp and mouldy, one colony was strong, the others rather weak, all had been lost afterwards, probably owing to the unfavorable weather which followed immediately after taking them out. S. A. Dickie reported two dead when taken out, two in very fair condition, one strong, all had perished since, this was due to unfavorable weather. He was going to try the same plan of wintering again.

The secretary reported that all had come out about equally strong, none had perished since taking out, in closing he stated all had perished before taking out. He was satisfied that this plan could be no more certain than other plans of wintering.

Reports showed bees had wintered fairly well but many had been lost by robbing and spring dwindling.

The question, what is the best time to Italianize? was asked. A discussion followed which elicited the information that the cheapest and simplest time to do this would be during the honey season. And as early in it as possible.

In response to the invitation to ladies, only one was present, Mrs. Anguish. No doubt at the next meeting which will be held in August, there will be a very full attendance.

The following Prize List was submitted and approved of.

1st, Display of Comb Honey in most marketable shape, produced by the exhibitor and not less than 300 lbs., quality to govern, 1st, \$5.00; 2nd, \$3.00, given by the B. B. K. A.

2nd, Display of Extracted Honey, 1st, \$5.00; 2nd, \$3.00, given by B. B. K. A.

3rd, Display of Comb and Extracted Honey, (exhibitors who have entered in Sec. 1 and 2 excluded,) not less than 200 lbs. of each, quality to govern, 1st, \$4.00; 2nd, \$2.50, given by B. B. K. A.

4th, Ten lbs. of Clover Honey extracted, in glass, 1st, Bee Hive, given by E. L. Goold & Co.; 2nd, \$1.00, given by T. Burkett.

5th, Ten lbs. of Linden Honey extracted, 1st, Bee Hive, given by S. Dickie; 2nd, Canadian Honey Producer (monthly), E. L. Goold & Co.

6th, Best 10 lbs. Comb Honey in Sections, 1st, One swarm bees, given by D. Anguish; 2nd, \$1.00, given by J. R. Howell.

7th, Best Honey Vinegar, 1st, one Smoker given by R. Holtermann; 2nd, 75 cts.

8th, Best assortment of fruits put up in Honey, 1st, Swarm Taker, given by R. F. Holtermann; 2nd, 75 cts.; 3rd, 25 cts.

9th, Best display of Bee-Keepers' Supplies, manufacture of exhibitor, 1st, \$5.00; 2nd, \$2.00.

10th, Best Hive for Comb Honey, 1st, Diploma; 2nd, 50 cts.

11th, Best Hive for Extracted Honey, 1st, Diploma; 2nd, 50 cts.

12th, Best Honey Extractor, 1st, Diploma, 2nd, 50 cts.

Norfolk Bee-Keepers' Association.

The last meeting of the Norfolk Bee-Keepers' Association was held in Delhi, on Sat. June 2nd. Mr. W. W. Simmons, Vice Pres. in the chair. The minutes of last meeting were read and adopted. 21 members were present, 8 of which are members of the O. B. K. A. The loss of bees reported by the members in wintering was about 18 per cent or nearly double that of last year.

A motion was brought before the meeting and carried unanimously that this Association apply to the O. B. K. A. for affiliation.—Nothing was decided as to what should be done with the grant. The first subject for

discussion was, dividing for increase which was not generally approved of.

SPRING MANAGEMENT.

Keep the bees as warm as possible and disturb them but very little.

QUEEN RAISING.

Some thought that the second lot of queen cells were better than the first so it was best to destroy the first. The Association then adjourned to meet in Simcoe, on Saturday, Sept. 1st.

C. W. CULVER, Sec.

Haldimand Bee-Keepers' Association.

The Haldimand Bee-Keepers' Association met at Nelles' Corners on Monday, May 28th, at 1 p. m. ; the President, Mr. James Armstrong, in the chair.

After the matter of affiliation had been thoroughly discussed, it was

Moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. W. Kindree, that the Haldimand Bee-Keepers' Association be affiliated with the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association and that the Secretary be instructed to forward the necessary fee of \$5. Carried.

THE BEST WAY TO HIVE NATURAL SWARMS.

Mr. Smith placed an old newspaper in front of the hive, and when the bees were nicely clustered in the swarming box he shook a few on the platform, and they soon ran in.

Mr Armstrong described his plan of using swarming box, which he held so that the swarm could easily cluster in it, when he took it to the hive and shook a few bees down on to the platform in front and the whole swarm soon ran in with joyful haste.

Mr. W Kindree's plan was the same as described by Mr. Armstrong, and he thought the swarming box was worth its weight in gold for practical use to every bee-keeper.

Messrs. Mehlenbacher, Rose, Coverdale and Overholt gave their plans, which were in the main the same as given above.

How to transfer bees was discussed at some length.

WHICH IS BEST, TO FILL THE SECTIONS, OR USE STARTERS.

Mr. W. Kindree had not had much experience with full sections. He usually put in a starter, but he thought the bees made straight-

er and nicer comb honey when the sections were filled with foundation.

Mr. Armstrong was in favour of filling the sections with thin foundation. If the lower story was full of combs he used starters in the sections, but if there were only starters below he filled the sections with foundation.

Messrs. Overholt and Rose had used only starters.

Report of losses; Fall, '87, 592; Spring, '88, 494.

Moved by Mr. Rose, seconded by Mr. Overholt, that this Association give \$8 to the Cayuga and Jarvis shows, and \$4 to Rainham show, on condition that they give twice as much in prizes for honey and apiarian supplies, and that the local members of the association be authorized to wait upon the Directors of the above Agricultural Societies. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Fathers, that the next meeting of the association be held at Fisherville on Saturday, 29th September. Carried.

E. C. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

North Middlesex Bee-Keepers' Association.

The above Association convened at Ailsa Craig at 2 p. m., May 24th. President Atkinson in the chair. After the reading of the minutes, the election of Officers resulted as follows:

Pres., F. Atkinson.

Vice Pres., W. J. Wilson Greenway.

Secy. Treas., A. W. Humphreys.

Directors, Jas. Mathews, D. Smith, A. W. Humphreys, F. Atkinson, J. B. Aikes, John Anderson.

A. W. Humphreys and W. J. Wilson were elected representatives at the Western Fair. The Association decided to pay all railway expenses in connection with the duties of representatives at the Western Fair. The Association then called upon R. F. Holtermann to explain the advantages of affiliation of County Associations with the Ontario, after which a resolution was passed instructing the Secretary to take the necessary steps for affiliation.

Jas. Hubbard and Dav. Collins were elected representatives for the year.

The Sec'y-Treas. report showed a balance on hand of 10c. After considerable discus-

sion and a reconsideration of the question, Parkhill being first chosen, Strathroy was selected as the next place of meeting, time of meeting February. Upon motion it was decided to call the Association in future, the Middlesex Bee-Keepers' Association.

Several topics for discussion were then advanced. The first being, is there any difference in the activity of a swarm. This brought the recount of quite a number of experiences and left the undoubted impression that races and strains of bees differed in activity. At the same time it brought out the importance of giving your bees room and helping them in every way to enable them to work to the best advantage. A member related how in apparently similar conditions his bees (in box hives) had shown different working energy, when another member stated that probably one swarm was more intelligent than the other and had struck work until moved into a respectable movable frame hive.

How to prevent robbing, was a topic of special interest as so many colonies had been lost in that way this Season. Nothing new was brought out, the advantages of having Italian or Holy Land bees to prevent this was well proven or at least bees with less than half of black blood.

How long will a drone live? was asked. Mr. Smith reported that he had a colony with a queen winter drones.

How best to control swarming was taken up with considerable interest. Mr. Aikes and another member favored dividing. Mr. Holtermann claimed that at present prices of bees if for no other reason, dividing was objectionable and then gave his method of working to prevent much increase.

The attendance was not large, probably owing to it being a holiday.

Report of Mount Forest B. K. Convention.

The Mount Forest Bee-Keepers' Association met on the 12th inst., at 2.30 p. m. Rev. D. P. Niven, President, in the chair. There was a fair number of members present. Each member reported as to the Wintering and Springing of his bees :

| | FALL. | SPRING. | PRESENT. |
|--------------------|-------|---------|----------|
| Mr. Wm Fraser..... | 50 | 49 | 39 |
| " Fyfe..... | 107 | 102 | 95 |
| " Donaldson. 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| " Skales..... | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| " Davison.... | 29 | 17 | 11 |
| " Godfrey.... | 6 | 4 | 4 |
| " Coutts | 26 | 25 | 17 |
| " Duncan..... | 1 | 0 | |
| " Niven..... | 79 | 74 | 44 |

All members complain of it being the worst Spring dwindling known. Cold May, and up to the present time the writer experienced the heaviest loss which he attributes as some others do, to the lack of young bees in the Fall; weakening by dysentery in the Winter and the cold Spring. Mr. Davison lost twelve in cellar for lack of stores; reduced to the present number by sales. Had no Spring dwindling.

Mr. Donaldson reported the first swarm of the season on the 10th inst. Mr. Fyfe of Harriston has been using the Jones' hive, but had one of his own getting up on Exhibition. (Langstroth frame.)

A discussion arose as to starters, viz., full sheets of foundation. The former was well supported, but the latter had it when there is a push for comb building and the honey flow not over abundant.

The meeting then took up the question of Affiliation, when it was moved and seconded, That Messrs. Davison, Fyfe and Niven be a committee to solicit funds, &c., in order to comply with conditions of Affiliation with O. B. K. Association, which conditions were explained by the President and it was resolved that application be made forthwith. The meeting then closed, all feeling that they had spent a pleasant and profitable time.—

D. P. NIVEN.

MEDICINAL QUALITIES OF HONEY EXPLAINED.

Written for the British Bee Journal.

BY R. A. H. GRIMSHAW.

We should like to enquire into the reasons why, or in what respect, honey is a medicine; supposing we take it as admitted that such is the case, an assumption many medical men might object to, seeing that the position of

honey in the British Pharmacopœia is such a very modest one, its use being chiefly that of a vehicle for other medicines, and as an adjunct to gargles. I should say that children in the stages requiring *Mel boracis* receive the greatest share of the officinal preparations of honey. True, exymeal (a mixture of honey, acetic acid and water) is used as a demulcent, softening mucus lodging in the the air-passages and facilitating its expectoration. In my own household, however, I prefer the use of citric acid to acetic.

In bronchitis, pure honey and simple is always at hand, and more relief is obtained by frequently tasting it than from anything else. Nearly twenty years ago I found the greatest benefit in an attack of quinsy, by using a gargle of red sage, acidulated with vinegar, and well sweetened with honey. Honey *ad libitum* as a laxative, and mixed with borax for thrush, is of course, a common household medicine for children. We will leave out of our view the value of honey as a food, as a heat-producer consisting, as it does principally of carbon and water, the two sugars dextrose and levulose, invert sugar. We know it is readily assimilated in the stomach, and should be eaten with some attenuating substance, such as bread.

Mr. Cheshire in "Honey as Food," tells us: "Why honey has a curative effect it is difficult to say for certain, but one may theorize, and ascribe this fact to the readiness with which it combines with mucous tissue. Honey is variable, and therefore its value as a medicine cannot always be the same."

In "Honey as Food and Medicine," we have a list of prescriptions which are almost incredulously efficacious, a few of which may be named starters: Inflammation and congestion of the lungs followed by unconsciousness were cured by eating honey at all times of the day and night until 10 pounds were consumed. Herr Karl Gatter was at the verge of the grave, and was restored to good health by the use of honey. Consumption is cured by it, and in ancient times it was used as a means of securing long life, and it is said to be an excellent remedy in diseases of the bladder and kidneys. The receipts are:

For asthma, honey of squills, honey cough syrup, eye-wash, balsam of honey, for croup, for bronchitis, honey salve, for coughs, cold

whooping cough, etc.; honey-wash for the eyes, gargle for sore throat, cancer plaster, honey-cough medicine, honey and tar cough candy, honey for sore eyes, honey and walnut cough candy, remedy for whooping cough, colds, etc.

Granting that all these prescriptions are good and effectual, what is there about honey that is absent in sugar which brings about such apparently wonderful results? It is in this direction we will turn our gaze.

We know the effect produced upon the nerves at the roots of our teeth by bringing them into contact with fresh honey, strong in acid, and it may be that the excess of formic acid secreted by the bees is used by it in giving its honey this strong acid reaction. Indeed, it is not beyond the bounds of reason to suppose that the supply of this acid to the bee is not intended for purely domestic purposes. There is not much doubt that the acid contained in honey is beneficial to both stomach and liver.

What else is there in honey? Well myriads of pollen-grains, and these contain chemical principles of undoubted medical potency. Putting aside the husks (the extine and intine of the pollen grain) the outmost skin is found to be reticulated with ridges, the seat of a secretion of sticky oil. The contents are a sticky fluid rich in protoplasm, sometimes transparent, sometimes opaque, by reason of floating granules (fovilla,) which granules are declared by Herapath to contain as much as 46 per cent. of a peculiar inflammable azotized (?) principle, insoluble in nearly every liquid. I imagine it is soluble by gastric juice. These granules were found to be invisible in many fresh pollens, since the fluid in which they swim has the same refractive power as the granules; some of them are drops of oil, whilst others consist of proteic compounds.

Many pollen tubes will develop in nectar, by osmose of water, and produce in their own tubes other chemical combinations, and as the growth of these tubes often exceeds the diameter of the pollen grain by a hundred diameters, their chemical position in the honey must be somewhat considerable.

We have then (leaving the sugar of honey on one side) to deal with formic acid and the protoplasmic contents of pollen-cells, when we think of honey as a medicine.

The most important factor, in my opinion, remains yet to be considered. I allude to its flavor. Mr Otto Hehner tell us "he has not been able by chemical means to distinguish between honey from one kind of flower and any other." We must all admit that such a difference exists. We know that honey collected from poisonous plants is materially affected by the active deleterious or objectionable or medicinal principle, secreted by such plant the rhododendron family, azaleas and kalmias being an instance of this. Does it not follow, as nectar is a secretion and an exudation of the plant cell, that it is charged and pervaded by the active principle, beneficial or otherwise of the plant? Many instances of the identity of the nectar flavor, and the distinguishing principle of the plant which secretes it, can be given;

Citric acid is found in fruits and flowers of the orange tribe.

Tartaric acid is found in grape juice.

Malic acid is found in the apple, gooseberry, etc.

Tannic acid is found in the oak, etc.

Hydr cyanic (prussic) is found in the cherry laurel.

Oxalic acid is found in sorrel and rhubarb.

Gallic is found in all kinds of galls.

Of poisonous principles we find alkaloids of Quinine in cinchona. Morphine in opium. Solanine in plants of the potato tribe. Veratrine in sebadilla. Aconitine in monkshood and aconites. Strychnine in nux vomica. Atropine in belladonna. Piperine in pepper. theine or caffeine in tea and coffee.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

Poole, June 2nd, 1888.

Dear Sir:—

In June No. of C. P. H. there are a few errors in describing my improvements in bee-hives, whether they are misprints or my mistakes I cannot tell but they are there, viz., on page 67, fourth line below Fig. 2, should read: *the upper level of the frames are that distance below the level of the top of hive.* Then again description of honey board should read: *only being propolised around the inner edge of hive,* instead of under edge.

Will you kindly make the corrections and oblige,—Yours, &c.,

D. CHALMERS.

SUNDRY ITEMS.

A. Langford took from 4 upper stories 8 frame Langstroth hives at one extracting, Honey as follows: 56 lbs. 56 lbs. 63 lbs. 61 lbs.

Mr. A. G. Willows, Carlingsford, caged a queen, July 5th, and by some accident she remained caged until Sept. 19th. In all that time no brood was reared and very little after that time. We examined the colony this Spring and found it very good. Mr. Willows said it was better than some colonies much stronger in the Fall.

Mr. T. G. Newman, the editor of the *American Bee Journal* says:—There are many who should never attempt to keep bees—the shiftless, the lazy, the one who will not read and study the necessities of the business, those who are afraid of stings, those who are nervous and irritable, and those who have no time to attend to the care of the bees. All such should never attempt to keep bees.

Failures come in every avocation. Of no occupation can it be said that it never fails. Bee-keeping is no exception to the general rule—but it is not more liable to failure than others. The manufacturer, the banker and the merchant often have to grapple with financial distress and commerial panics—but, do they forsake the counter, the desk, and the factory, and look for some other business wherein loss and trouble never come? No! indeed, such reverses but stimulate progressive men to further diligence and more dauntless courage!

When the bankers, merchants and farmers set the example, it will be time enough for apiarists to become discouraged and give up the business—but not till then!

Dr. A. B. Mason, in his reply to the question: "In working for comb honey, have you ever found it necessary or advisable to tier up more than three sections high?" says no; but if I were located where honey could be shaken from the trees, as is said it could be in Ontario, I might find it advisable. The Doctor will peg at us. Some one on his side of the line must have invented the whopper, probably the same man who makes the artificial comb honey. If the Doctor went into that business he would probably find it neces-

sary to tier up also. In the replies the majority are against tiering more than three high. Comb honey cannot be taken to advantage with one super.—*Gleanings*.

Answers to Queries for July.

No. 40. Why do people go into bee-keeping? and why do so many become enthusiasts?

Principally, because they imagine it to be an easy way to make money. I do not think any more, comparatively, become enthusiasts in bee-keeping than in other pursuits.—A. G. Willows, Carlingford, Ont.

1st, Because of the great blow made through the press by enthusiasts and supply dealers. 2nd, Because to a certain class of minds there is something fascinating in the pursuit. Now why do so many get the enthusiasm knocked out of them?—Ira Orvis, Whitby, Ont.

It is probable that no two persons were ever induced to engage in Bee-Keeping by exactly the same set of influences; the reasons are varied. Over inducements are often offered. The many who commence do not become enthusiasts. Those who engage in it as a scientific pursuit, could not but become enthusiastic, for truly the wonders of the "Hive and Honey Bee" are beyond estimation.—L. C. Root, Stamford, Ct.

1st, Because they want to. 2nd, Bee culture is a fascinating study, and has the effect to "enthus" a fellow more or less. The study of the Honey Bee has brought me much pleasure and has made life less monotonous. This is a pretty good "why", is it not?—G. W. Demaree, Christianburg, Ky.

Because they think they see lots of money in it, where there is one that becomes an enthusiast there are twenty who become disgusted and quit; the answer to this question might be greatly enlarged.—John Yoder, Springfield, Ont.

Most people imagine that they can keep bees all right. It does not take much capital to start and there is something fascinating about the business.—D. P. Niven, Dromore, Ont.

It is generally supposed there is a considerable income for very little trouble or cost.—2nd, Because of the hope of a big find.—F. Malcolm, Innerkip, Ont.

Because they think it pays well and not much hard work and is such an interesting study.—Dr. Duncan, Embro, Ont.

There are a number of reasons, some fancy the business. Some think they can make money out of a small investment.—W. Couse, Streetsville, Ont.

Usually for fun or money. Because they are susceptible beings and appreciate the wonderful.—A. J. Cook, Agricultural College, Mich.

1st, Usually to make a fortune. 2nd, For the same reason that so many do in other occupations.—Dr. A. B. Mason, Auburndale, Ohio.

Some have a strong taste in that direction, and some are led into it from the large yields reported in isolated cases.—Dr. C. C. Miller, Maringo, Ills.

1st, Who can tell? 2nd, Presumably like myself, because I found the occupation so fascinating, the experience so instructive, and the experiments so exhilarating that I could not help becoming so much of an enthusiast. as to almost warrant my friends in calling me a "Crank," whatever that term may mean.—J. E. Pond, North Attleboro.

A Bee-Keeper's life is easy and pleasant.—A. D. Allan, Tamworth, Ont.

They go in because they hear so much about the success and so little about the failures in bee-keeping and the supply dealers and editors of bee-journals are not altogether to blame for this if you please. It is human nature for us to speak of our success and keep quiet about our failures in everything. Take up a paper and what do you see. Such items as Mr. so and so secured so many quarts of strawberries from one acre, or, a sea serpent was caught of such a size, or a chicken was hatched with two heads. Or, Mr. so and so has been very successful in business and here follows a sketch—and yet the proprietors may not be interested in selling strawberry plants and boxes or desirous of having any one raise chickens with two heads or induce their readers to catch large sea serpents. Send out for statistics such as the Beamean of Industries and who will be most ready to reply? *The successful man*. It looks very much as if the unsuccessful Bee-Keeper were in league with the supply dealer.

It is always a bad principle to judge men's motives and at best this is all we can do in this matter so let us drop it and practice a little more charity in judgment. 2nd, Bee-

keeping is a beautiful study, then it is a business which may yield a handsome profit or nothing, or even a loss, and in that respect has all the attractions of a lottery—Ed.

No. 41. Do bees secrete wax at certain seasons of the year, even if not required? or is the action entirely voluntary.

Do not know. Wax scales being dropped into the bottom when they have no room to build comb, would look as if the action is not always voluntary.—A. G. Willows.

I do not know.—Ira Orvis.

I really do not feel that my investigations upon this point have been thoroughly enough conducted to warrant my giving a positive answer. I will only venture the assertion that it is at least largely voluntary.—L. C. Root.

Secreting wax in the bee is not voluntary, they secrete wax as the result of high feeding and proper condition. When these are present, the secretion of wax is involuntary, as much so as is the taking on of tallow by the ox when well fed with proper food. The clustering process seems to facilitate wax secretion and this much is voluntary.—G. W. Demaree.

Yes, certainly. Nature prepares them at swarming time for the secretion of wax, and it is a mistake to give them full combs at that time thereby thwarting nature; the wax is not needed and the bees dry up.—John Yoder.

Not unless required I think.—D. P. Niven.

Don't know.—F. Malcolm.

No! The action is entirely voluntary.—Dr. Duncan.

Voluntary, I would say.—W. Couse.

I think it is either directly or indirectly voluntary.—A. J. Cook.

No—Dr. A. B. Mason.

I don't know, perhaps a little of both.—Dr. C. C. Miller.

The action is wholly voluntary. It is however a natural following of natural laws.—Comb building and honey gathering go hand in hand together. When the honey flow ceases, comb building stops. The exception is only when comb enough is built to contain the stores and brood.—J. E. Pond.

I believe the action voluntary.—A. D. Allan.

I do not know—cannot we do something to solve the problem, it is important.—Ed.

No. 42. I wish to prevent swarming to secure honey. What is the best thing to do with the new and old swarm, should I fail to prevent swarming?

Hive the new swarm on the old stand, placing the old hive beside it with the entrance at right angles to its original position, gradually turn it back until the entrance faces the same direction as the new hive, and in five or six days remove to a new location.—A. G. Willows.

It would make a difference whether it was for comb, or extracted honey.—Ira Orvis.

I suppose the person asking this question to be a producer of comb honey. Hive the new swarm and place it on the old stand, removing the old hive to a new location. Place the incomplete surplus boxes on the new hive. I prefer putting at least one comb of brood in the new hive.—L. C. Root.

When I want to suppress increase I build up the parent colonies and work the swarms for all that is in them. I take all the honey from them and leave them to take care of the combs till cold weather takes the bees away, and leaves me the combs for the next season's work.—G. W. Demaree.

Men handle according to their time and skill, hive the new swarm on the old stand, queen and all, then take one or two cards with queen, cell and bees attached, and make a nuclei shaking all the other bees into the new swarm. Build up the weak colonies with the combs of eggs and brood.—John Yoder.

Hive the new on the old stand and turn old one, (a la Heddon) to prevent swarming again.—D. P. Niven.

So much depends on the season that no rule can be given as best—F. Malcolm.

Give your bees room to store honey by extracting or tiering up your surplus cases; If they swarm put the new swarm on a new stand, in six days remove all the queen cells from the old stand but one, then you will have two good swarms in about a week to store honey. Put the supers on the swarm.

Put the swarm in a new hive and give it foundation or combs to work on and put a young queen in the old hive as soon as possible after it has swarmed. In a good season you will be apt to get as much honey as if you prevented swarming.—W. Couse.

I think we get better results to permit one swarm. I give method in my Manual.—A. J. Cook.

The best thing to do with a new swarm is to put it in a good frame hive, if you want to keep it. I don't know what an "old swarm" is.—Dr. A. B. Mason.

One way is to hive the first swarm in a new hive, and afterward hive each swarm in the hive from which the previous swarm issued.—Dr. C. C. Miller.

This opens up too big a subject for this department, as it requires a complete explanation of the fundamental law on which bee-production is based. Study the matter up in good text books, and in the articles found in good Bee Journals.—J. E. Pond.

Unite two new swarms, and if you have too many in the Fall, double.—A. D. Allan.

If you have as many colonies as you want, it is best to prevent increase as much as possible, though you may not get any more or even as much honey by preventing swarming as you would from the parent stock and one swarm, so that I do not see that by preventing swarming you secure honey. If they swarm, hive them on full sheets of foundation, remove the parent colony to a new stand and set the swarm on the old stand. Then in 6 or 7 days cut out all the Queen cells but one from the parent colony.—Henrietta F. Buller.—Cambellford, Ont.

It depends upon the time of season. We would put the old swarm on a new stand and the new on the old, putting the super upon the new swarm.—Ed.

FOREIGN.

AUSTRALIA.

Mr. Macintosh who has spent some time in Australia, says that bee-keeping is mostly conducted there on the old box hive system. The honey therefore is strained, inferior in quality and 2d. per lb. A great deal of wild honey is secured. A few are using advanced methods of Bee-keeping, the Langstroth hive and accompanying improvements are to be found. The people there appear to be anxious to keep bees upon improved principles.

SWITZERLAND.

Mr. Neiderhensen of whom we spoke in our last issue, says of Switzerland, there are

too many Bee-Keepers in Geneva, every ten minutes walk you find from 50 to 100 colonies, the latter is however a large number. Fifty lbs. per colony is considered a first class yield in a year, 150 lbs. is the largest yield known to him. Extracted honey is about 25 cts. per lb. comb honey 30 cts. per lb. Honey is secured from clover, lucerne and linden. Lucerne gives, a large yield and better honey than clover.

Lucerne can be grown in this country and is an excellent green fodder if it will yield more and better honey than clover and the plant might be introduced more generally for fodder. It can be cut three to eight times in a season.—Ed.

Unsolicited Testimonials.

I have been well pleased with your paper and wish you every success.

FRED WETTLAUFR,
Innerkip, May 29th.

I think the C. H. P. is improving all the time. My bees are in grand condition and all alive.

JOHN McMURDO,
May 4th.

Father says he got more than 40 cts. worth of information out of one number.

FRANK DOAN,
Newmarket.

Queries for August.

No. 43. Is it necessary to strain honey through a cloth, from a tank holding 600 lbs., or will all impurities rise to the top?

No. 44. Can you educate the public to buy granulated honey, or is it preferable to liquify it and sell it in that way?

No. 45. I have colonies with insufficient stores for winter, and below the average in strength. Shall I feed, and attempt to winter, or brimstone them?

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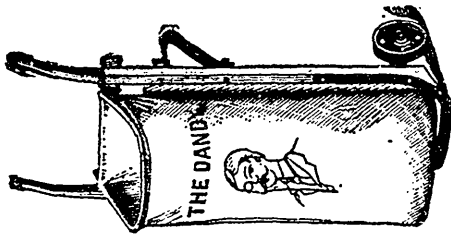
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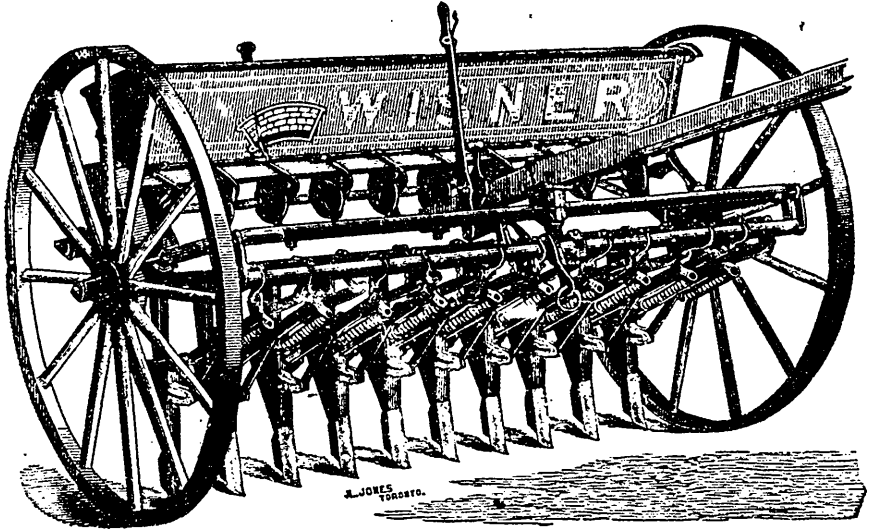
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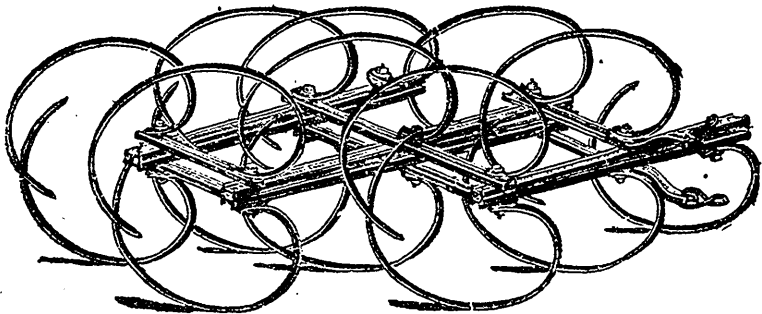
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