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CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

NEW SERIES
Vol. V, No. 11.

BRANTFORD, ONT., MAY, 1897.

WHOLE NO.
387

While speaking of typographical and other errors, a pretty serious error took place lately in Toronto. Errors in Printing. One of the big daily papers put in an advertisement for a large concern and in a mistake placed suits at \$1 instead of \$10. There was a rush, a blockade in fact, and a mistake. The editor's work is to revise and make plain, indistinct writing, to correct technical errors. This company does a large business, but they do not run a printing office. The Canadian Bee Journal is printed in the largest printing office in Brantford, issuing a daily and weekly paper with an unusually large circulation; that office is responsible for any errors a printer can correct. Any one having copies of the Canadian Bee Journal sent before we took it in hand, must admit that we do not make a tenth of the mistakes that were made in those days when no one complained. Our readers do not expect perfection in printing. We have quite a little experience in sending orders to various papers and it is a rare occurrence not to find changes in the mean-while. These transformations have taken place in the printing office. Any person with any experience makes allowances for these when he orders. Then take the convention reports, when speaking, often puts in a word he does not intend to use, I have noticed our printers do this, then the reporter gets it wrong, then the printer and when the reporter see it, unless he has some excuse, he is mad and takes no blame to himself. He thinks he was the only perfect

man in the lot. If there is a mistake of a serious nature, write briefly, and, without much comment, correct it, and let that be the end of it.

* * *
Another absurdity Mr. Hutchinson writes is as follows. 'Bee Journals have been born and lived a short time (some of them a long time) and then died, and Dr. Miller thinks that it is not kindness on the part of other journals to editorially notice the advent of a new journal by praising it. That is, that praise only stimulates the editor to go on and spend more money in continuing its publication when he might have stopped if we only had told him that—that his journal was no good. I can't agree with the Doctor. Adverse criticism or even silence would be looked on by the new journalist as simply the result of jealousy. Besides, the new comer sometimes out-lives and out-ranks the older journal. To withhold the usual editorial notice will neither make nor mar the new journal, nor prevent its editor from going on in the course he has mapped out. The editorial notice of a new journal is simply the polite bow with which we greet a new comer, and to withhold it looks either boorish or pharisaical.'

I suppose Mr. H. means "boorish" the best papers make typographical errors, but just let us reason a little, apply a little common sense. Publishing a Bee Journal is a business with most people, just as queen rearing, selling honey, selling bees and bee-keepers supplies, or even selling dry goods.

A man selling dry goods has of course, a right when a rival store starts to announce either by placard or in person to every customer when he enters the store that so and so has started selling dry goods, but men who pay 100 cents in the dollar are not built that way. It would not be considered business, no one would care to give such a man credit, they would want spot cash. In queen rearing, if Mr. Hutchinson made a business of queen rearing why not announce when he advertises, that Brown and Jones and Smith are also in the business. He says it costs to advertise, well I guess it cost something to run a Journal. A few years ago nearly all the bee papers had a list announcing that so and so, etc., giving full name and address, had sent in supply catalogues and of course, every dealer sent it. It was a very cheap, free notice, it could be got for the price of one catalogue and a one cent stamp, worth probably nothing to the Journal. The Gould, Shapley & Muir Co., faithfully sent them and I gave personal attention to the matter. I said there's a good thing going, twenty, thirty, or forty thousand bee-keepers can have the company's address for four catalogues and four one cent stamps, a snap worth looking after. The publishers had a right to insert the notice, but in this respect I had no respect for their business shrewdness. I agree fully with Doctor Miller from his standpoint, and more, it is no kindness to draw attention to a paper which in nine cases out of ten is trying to occupy a field already well covered, which will give inferior service, and when, often the unlucky subscriber gets, after a few months nothing for his money.

* * *

Mr. Hutchinson is gravely discussing the question of comb foundation and, of course, he has a perfect right to discuss the question, just as he had a right to issue his pamphlet on the Production of Comb Honey and lead a great many astray on the best method of management to secure comb honey. He has a right to discuss comb foundation, just as he had a right to

change his views about the methods of comb honey production, but is it not just a little hard on bee-keepers for Mr. Hutchinson to publish these misleading statements, that is, if there are any bee-keepers left who have faith in what he writes. Mr. Weed has taken him to task for tending to lead the public to believe that he knew how the deep cell foundation was made, when he knew absolutely nothing about it. Just as long as there is a thick side wall no matter how perfect otherwise, so long will there be fish bone in the finished comb. Let Mr. H. or anyone else take a section of honey, extract the comb, then soak the comb in water thus getting rid of the honey, which remains. Then dry the comb and when cold carefully scrape down the side wall and close to the base he will find the side wall has never been thinned by the bees. Is this a fact—go and see—and if it is, shall we aim at comb foundation with a thin or thick side wall? Common sense will answer the question.

* * *

While I have a Review in hand I may as well express myself upon Mr. Hutchinson's view as expressed in the *Comb Foundation* following: "In hiving a swarm when producing comb honey, I would not give the queen any drawn comb (unless it might be one where no queen-excluder is used) if I were practicing contraction of the brood nest. Such comb will be at once filled with honey to the exclusion of the queen. Let them build comb in the brood frames and the reverse will be true. If we should allow comb building, or have foundation drawn out, at the side of the brood nest, we would defeat the object for which contraction is practiced, that of forcing the bees into the supers." Now is this correct? If we so express ourselves that bee-keepers understand our remarks to apply to bee-keeping everywhere, and these remarks do not then apply, we may do serious mischief. If you are producing honey for market, and wish to make dollars and cents, I do not think you can afford to use starters anywhere. I formerly used a starter that

popular when I began the production of comb honey, but I have left that method behind, and adopted better methods. I would use "dummies" in the brood chamber—say three—and with the other five combs filled with foundation I have no drone comb to trouble me. I have done this when I did not expect a full flow of honey and I have had every cell in the five combs filled with brood and pollen, so that any surplus honey there was, was certainly put in the sections. Now some one may argue, and I am sure the Canadian Bee Journal is open to articles upon the whole subject, that if the honey flow stopped early and there was no prospect of a full flow, then the brood in the five combs would be useless. I doubt the correctness of that assertion. No one is a stronger believer than I in the theory, that when bees do nothing and are comfortable there is little loss of vitality, and that when bees are active they lose vitality and they breed, that there is as it were, a balancing if nature is left alone. But when a bee-keeper allows his bees to exhaust their vitality without giving the queen a chance to deposit a fair amount of eggs, the result is a lack of balance. If field bees are worn out at the close of the flow, there are few young bees to replace the old. The bees quiet down as they always do when no honey is coming in, and of necessity worn out bees go into winter quarters. Some will admit that even with no flow, these hatching bees are all right. It is much easier to see that nothing is lost by full sheets of foundation, instead of starters in the brood chamber during the clover, thistle and linden flow, when these may be expected to be followed by a fall flow. Why? Because if you do not rear at least five combs of worker during clover and linden you will not have the desired number of workers for the fall flow. A few may say Mr. H. is right when there is no flow, but we doubt if anyone who has experience with a fall flow of honey will find this management is correct under this or any other condition. A few articles upon the whole subject would be of value to many.

On page 919 Canadian Bee Journal appeared an article "Foul Brood and the Board of Agriculture,"
Foul Brood. We saw this in the British Bee Journal, and if we understand it correctly, it was originally published by the British or English Board of Agriculture as Leaflet No. 32, and the article did not originate with the British Bee Journal. As one or two persons appear to think that in spite of the address being given, it might mean the Ontario Board of Agriculture, a body which by the way does not exist in Ontario or Canada, we cheerfully make the above explanation. We are anxious to have all possible light thrown upon this question of Foul Brood.

* * *

The Australian Bee Bulletin for Feb'y 23th, has the following: "It was resolved on the motion of Mr. Prof. McEvoy's Tipper, that Prof. Services Recognized. McEvoy, of Canada, be thanked, on behalf of the bee-keepers of Australia, for his excellent letter on Foul Brood, which appeared in a recent number of the Australian Bee Bulletin." We must congratulate Prof. McEvoy, but we do not want to see him go to Australia to stamp out foul brood, we require his services here in Canada.

I am much pleased with the Journal and like to read different views on bee-keeping. I have written a short article on the care of bees in the spring, which I should have sent in for the April issue, and if you find it suitable and of any use to you, I shall be glad to see it come out in your Journal at some future date. I might also say, that bees in this part of the country have wintered well about 80 per cent coming through. Wishing you success with your Journal.

Yours truly,

ALBERT J. CUNDICK.

Warwick, Ont., April 10th, 1897.

[We are pleased to have article which will appear later.—Ed.]

Owing to a very heavy supply of important contributed matter for this month, we are obliged to hold over the Ontario Convention Report till next issue.—Ed.

BEE WORK IN MAY.

How to Get Your Bees Ready for the Honey Flow.

—By N. D. WEST.

May is here. Our bees are again well wintered, and the apiarist is made happy by the joyful hum of his own co-laborer, the honey bee. And as he goes out on a peasant day, takes a walk through his bee yard and see his bees all active and busy carrying in great loads of pollen and some honey, he is inspired to say "Oh how beautiful! how I do enjoy this. But business is business and it is time for me to work, and like the great shepherd take care of my flock."

The apiarist, in walking through his bee yard should carefully watch the flying of his bees at each and every hive. In this way the observing bee master can in a very short time tell nearly the condition of his bees. He can tell by their flying the strength of the colony, the health and energy of the bees, and whether they are gathering honey or pollen in peace and harmony, or if war is raging and some of the poor swarms are being robbed, either in his own yard or some other yard. Bees in war are desperate fighters, and it is sometimes quite hard to compromise with them.

Now as the apiarist has been walking through his bee yard perhaps he has noticed by the flying of the bees that some of his swarms were not in good condition. Such should be marked when noticed, by laying a stone on their hives, or some kind of a mark made to call attention to the fact. They should be looked to the first cool morning. Do whatever should be done, contract the brood nest or give honey if needed, &c., &c.

From the time bees are carried from the cellar to their summer stands they want watching. See that they fly well and know that they have honey enough. Keep the tops of the hives well covered to keep the bees warm and dry. It is not necessary to open the hive of a number one swarm of bees until fruit trees are in blossom. Bees, from the time they are set out should be encouraged to breeding by feeding them unbolted rye flour. Put it in a large shallow box, set the box in one corner of the yard out of the wind. This should be done on all pleasant days until natural pollen comes. A load of green sawdust spread

around the box or near the yard is a great help. The bees love to work on the dust, it stimulates them to breeding and keeps the bees working near home, and they will not die off as fast as they would to fly farther from home in search of something.

But May 15th has come and fruit trees are all in bloom and it means business. But we will get there just the same.

Our hives and boxes are all made and we are ready to work with our bees by the wholesale.

I will now be a little personal and talk about myself and boys, as we are about to go to work. My son's name is David and my hired man's name is Amos; I'll be boss and tell them what I want to be done. Hurrah boys! To-day we will clip our queens and scrape our hives neat and clean, so there will be no wax or burr combs in the hives, or on the brood frames to bother us in moving the frames. This also tends to prevent the frames from being waxed fast again, which bothers us through the swarming season. We must also equalize our swarms and get them in shape so they will be ready for the sections, and we must get the bees to work in the supers before swarming begins.

David, you put a good hard wood fire in three of the Bingham smokers, and then get my tool box and carry them in the bee yard. See that the things are in the box such as, bee veils, screw driver, hive scraper, hammer and a few nails, chalk and pencil and bee memorandum book, and get a lot of those section pieces that we use on our hives for tags. On these tags I write the age and strain and quality of the queen in the hive, as

Q 1895 - I strain.
Q XXX clipt, etc

I place this tag under a wire spring, on the back end of my hive. That wire spring can be turned around like the hands on the face of a clock, and it will hold the tag in any position I want it, and the position of the tag on the hive indicates the condition of the swarm. The most of the tags are up to the hive rim, and show that the swarm is O. K. But when the tag hangs away down, then there is no queen. When they have a queen call the tag is moved again, and so on, until the queen is laid and clipt. Amos I think now you understand how to place the tags.

Amos, David has the tools, and the smokers lighted, and he is in the bee yard with them, ready for business. He has six clean empty hives there also. Amos you take this comb box on the wheelbarrow and wheel it from the honey house to the end of the first row of bees. This box

tains a few frames of empty brood combs, and some frames with honey.

We are now ready to open the first hive. Amos you take off the cap, now sit down on the cap on that side of the hive, and I will sit on my tool box chair on this side of the hive. David you just blow in the least bit of smoke at the entrance, and a little smoke on top of the frames when Amos raises the quilt. It will not need very much smoke, as the bees are working so on fruit bloom, and there are so few bees in the hives they are not cross, and the queen is now easily found, and I want to see her. The tag says she is clipt, but sometimes they have reared young queens since last year's clipping, and we want to be sure, and it only takes a moment to find her.

David now you set a clean hive in front of this hive that we have just opened. Now boys all be ready, and all three of us will look with our eyes for the queen, and I will lift the frames, bees and all, and place them into the clean hive just as fast as I can handle them one at a time. There she is now, on the third frame. Now boys be lively, Amos you open another hive in the same way, while I am placing the rest of the frames of brood and bees in the clean hive. I will set the swarm on its own stand, and I will change the tag from the old hive to the new hive, and will place the tag in position to indicate just the condition of the swarm.

Amos you have the next hive open just in time for me to handle the frames until the queen is found. David you scrape the hives that we take the bees out of, you will have enough to do, but if you have any time, just when I begin to lift out the frames, you might look for the queen too. Six eyes are better than two. There, the queen is on this frame, now I will set this frame in the new hive with the queen on it. But Amos look here, do you see that these combs are all nearly filled with brood. Yes, this swarm will be in just as good shape for box honey when the honey flow comes if we take away the frames of this brood. The hive is full of bees now, so Amos you put three of these frames of brood in that comb box on the wheel barrow, and then bring three frames of empty brood combs from the box, and place them in the centre of this hive for the queen to lay her eggs in, and then close the hive. This swarm will be all right.

Boys I want you to be sure and keep the cover on that comb box, so that the brood will not chill, or the bees find the honey. Amos I want you to learn how to do this work so you can work alone, or use a

green hand to help you, when I send you an out apiary to work.

David you know I want these swarms made so they will be about equal, and very strong in time for box honey, excepting a few very poor swarms, we will fix them up later. If you find a queenless swarm that would be worth saving, then unite a weak swarm with it, just at night or in the morning. You know how to do it. When you get the queen and bees all in one hive, smoke them and put a few slices of onions in the entrance of the hive, then the bees don't smell their own odour. I seldom cage a queen when uniting at this time of the season. Boys be sure that every swarm has honey enough to last until June first or longer. Some times bees starve as late as June 1st. The swarms should have 8 or 10 lbs of honey now. I don't want my bees to begin to reason like some folk, that they are getting so poor, and their honey is almost gone, and don't know when they will have any more, and daresn't raise any more babies. No! No! Amos, there is honey enough in the yard for all of the bees by changing the frames properly, and if not, there are some frames in the shop that are full of honey. I saved them on purpose for the bees. I don't buy sugar very often to feed bees, it don't pay. I generally get honey enough in the hives to winter my bees on.

Boys, we are going to finish this yard of 100 swarms before night. We will then have the Queens all clipt and their hives all scraped, and the swarms made as nearly equal as can be made for the first time going over them. But, Amos, you don't know what we are going to do with all of this extra brood. We now have six hives full of it away from the bees when we finish equalising. The few swarms are so poor, we dare not give them more than one frame at a time, lest the bees cannot care for it, and the brood might chill. David you may take care of this extra brood. I will tell you what to do with it. Put a queen excluder on each of six hives that contain swarms. Then take these six hives full of brood, and set one hive of brood on each of the six swarms, above the queen excluder, and the bees will care for the brood all right. But Amos wants to know how long to leave the brood there. That depends on circumstances. These top hives are store houses for brood and honey. If I want to draw brood for any other hive in a few days, I will go to the top hives and get what brood is needed. Or, in a few days it is a good place to get bees, or I can leave it alone and let the brood hatch out, and then the bees will fill

the combs with honey for extracting etc. Amos, don't you see these few upper hives are very handy to go to, to get brood, because you know just where to find it, and again, you see the bees are not gathering honey enough to fill with new combs the empty space in the supers, if the upper hive should be left half emptied of its frames. But it is better to move the dummy up to the brood combs. The bees will cover the outside of the combs next to the dummy better by its being moved up.

Amos when I have any extra brood, and no place that I want to use for the moment, then, I just put it in these upper hives. Tomorrow I may want to use the brood elsewhere. It's a good place to put in a few old combs I want the bees to clean up. Sometimes I put frames of honey that have been wintered in the honey house. The heat of the bees and the hives setting it, the warm sun will get the honey warmed up, so it is in better shape to use to feed some swarms that may run short of honey. The bee moth will not trouble the combs in these upper hives over strong swarms. Amos, these upper hives are a sort of National Bank to this yard of bees, but I am the cashier, and you and David are my clerks, and I want you to see that the deposits are properly cared for, and when you check out brood or honey from this bank, see that it is done to the best interest of the whole number of colonies in this bee yard.

Amos, now I will consider I have my bees all equalized, and they all have queens good enough to last until swarming time, and the queens all have one wing clipped. You see I cut off the wide fan of the left wing, slanting so as not to cut off too much of the heavy arm, as that hurts the queen, and makes her clumsy.

Now boys we must watch these swarms some after fruit bloom is over with, and see that all goes well until red raspberries are in bloom, that will be on hand in a few days. It may be necessary to draw more brood from some of the strongest swarms, and give to those that are not up to the standard.

Sometimes I have found it to be a good plan to do some wholesale feeding of sugar syrup for a day or two, to keep the bees from starving or becoming discouraged. Once I fed three yards of bees. On the first day of June their honey was gone, and they had lots of brood. We had several days of rainy weather, with but little sunshine, so the bees could not work on the raspberries which were then in bloom. Myself and help got around and don't you forget it. I fed the bees in all three yards, 20 miles drive one way. Fed warm sugar syrup in a wash tub. I set the tub in the

middle of the yard put in some straw so the bees would not drown, and then burnt some comb to cull the bees, and put honey on the tub and straw. The sun shone and the bees got there. The next day the weather was fair, and the bees got honey enough from bloom to help themselves. I had then had four bee yards that I had not been able to feed, but all went well. A few swarms had dragged out some brood. I now think there will be no more work with the bees until we put the section boxes on.

I have already written this article too long, but for the sake of beginners I will say this much more. When I change my bees to their newly scraped hive, if I fail to see the queen when handling the frames over the first time, I do not spend very much time in looking for her then, but lay a stone on the hive and pass on to the next hive, and so on until I get through the yard. Then I go back to the hives that have the stones on and carefully open and lift out the frames and look again, and you will be sure to find the queen. The frames are all loose and you can lift them now without a jar. Set the first two or three frames outside of the hive, until the queen is found. I clean my hives when the bees are working at their best on fruit bloom, and do not miss more than five queens in a hundred the first time over.

Swarming time is the best time to re-queen, so I have considered the queens good until then. I have considered too, that all the brood frames were filled with good straight worker combs. If there is too much drone comb in the hive during fruit bloom it should be cut out and worker comb fitted in its place.

Frames fitted entirely with drone comb containing honey, can be set over the dummy on either outside of the brood nest, not more than two frames drone comb thus in a 10 frame hive; the bees will remove the honey as they need it, but seldom rear brood in it there. Before boxing the bees however, the drone comb should be changed for worker comb in its stead. I used to get all my guide comb for boxes, by having the bees remove the honey from drone combs that were built by new swarms the previous year. I would have the honey removed from all new clean white drone combs in both frames and boxes and cut them up in pieces 2 inches square, and fasten them in surplus boxes for starters. All the honey was removed by the bees inside of the hives, then we had neither honey extractor or comb foundation.

Next month I will tell you when and how I want my bees boxed, etc.

Middleburgh, N. Y.

Questions

I am situated in the country and am thinking of clipping the wings of my queens. Before doing so, I would like to hear the arguments in favor and objections to the practice, also the individual opinion of those taking part in the question drawer. Please tell me about how often you "go into" or take frames out of the brood chamber of the hive in the course of the year.

I am a clipper, would not think of raising a yard without. When my bees swarm I have a cage made by bending a piece of wire cloth over the end of a broom handle about 4 or 5 inches long, sewing it with a piece of fine wire in this shape and tying a piece of corn cob for cork. When you see your swarm beginning to issue, watch for your queen,—let her run into the cage. When the bees are all out move the old hive away where you wish, place a new one in its place, lay the caged queen at the entrance and your work is done. There is no first swarm that makes its sneak from my yard. Only when they need attention.

WILL ELLIS.

I have never clipped a queen, so I cannot speak from experience. But after reading the discussion for some years I am led to believe that if clipping is followed generation after generation, it will weaken the working power of the workers. The majority of my hives I do not open at all during the year. Only those that show signs of wanting attention.

WARRINGTON SCOTT.

I never had any experience in clipping queens. It may have advantages, but from what I have read on the subject I do not approve of it.

GEO. B. MCCOLLOCH,
Harwood, Ont.

I don't clip because I can't make it work as charmingly as others say they can, although sometimes I can. Am anxious to know myself, how to make clipping work with some degree of certainty. I never take queens from the brood chamber. I use the Edison case system. If I were using the Westroth I would also avoid it as much as possible, in fact I think I would almost do without. If I had a fall flow of honey I could hive swarms on five frames in the brood chamber, afterward the dummies would have to be removed and combs in-

serted and also under such abnormal accidental circumstances as in first question I would go into the brood chamber.

A. E. HOSHAL.

I am in favor of clipping queen's wings, it saves a good deal of trouble, there is no climbing of trees after swarms. I never take any frames from the brood chamber.

JOHN PIRIE,
Drumquin, Ont.

Some of the advantages of clipping queens are:

1st. It prevents swarms from absconding.

2nd. It simplifies the process of hiving, because the swarm will generally return soon, if the queen does not accompany it. It is not necessary to climb tall trees when queens are clipped.

3rd. It enables the apiarist to know with certainty how old his queens are and when they are superseded.

I never handle frames in the brood chamber unless there is some reason for doing so. An experienced eye can usually determine most of their wants without removing frames.

EUGENE SECOR.

In favor of clipping queens,—ensures the return of swarm to be dealt with according to the bee-keeper's plans, thus allowing him to leave his apiary sometimes in the swarming season.

Against—Probable loss of queens in the grass, if not at once attended to.

Some argue that these return swarms do not work with the same vim, as those allowed to have their swarm out. I should clip every time. Never unless in case of necessity.

R. H. SMITH.

I have nothing to say in favor of clipping queens' wings. From my experience the worst objection is you never know where to find her. When a swarm issues, she is not always to be found on the ground in

front of the hive, but is liable to be superceded and of course the young queen will fly with the swarm. It is much more convenient to use a queen trap, which can be slid on to the entrance of the hive when the swarm begins to issue. Or better still, slide on a wire cloth swarm catcher. Then you have the bees too.

A colony in a normal condition should never have its frames disturbed.

R. A. MORRIESEN,
Inverary, Ont.

Clipping the wings of my queens is simply a matter of convenience with me. It puts the bees entirely under my control, and saves lots of work. This is practical argument in favor of the plan in my apiary.

Year before last I went through my hives and clipped all the unclipped queens in my yard but one, she headed a mere nucleus and I passed her. When swarming time came on she left with the swarm, and was a clear loss. I only open my hives when it is profitable to do so, not that often handling will hurt them if carefully done. A good strong colony can spare one, two or three frames of brood, if taken at intervals of, say a week apart.

G. W. DEMARCE,
Christianburg, Ky., U. S. A.

This question is a "poser," and I'll answer the last part of it first. Well, I go into my hives, "as often as is actually necessary," and "as little as possible," never removing frames out of the brood chamber, unless compelled to do so. It all depends on what one wants to do inside the hive. If you are producing honey alone, then probably 2 or 3 times a year, and possibly not at all. If you wish to cut a young queen's wing, opening a hive and moving the combs to find her, will as a matter of course, necessitate one manipulation yearly.

As for cutting queen's wings I have no valid reasons against such a practice, while with my management, everything is in favor of so doing. But I am not everybody—a person's judgement must guide them in such cases, as with everything else relating to apiculture.

F. A. GEMMELL,
Stratford, Ont.

I don't care to give any argument, either for or against clipping, unless my practice is an argument. I keep a wing of each queen clipped for convenience and profit. Convenience in hiving swarms, and profit in keeping swarms from "lighting out."

DR. A. B. MASON.

I clip the wings of my queens. My reasons for so doing are: 1st, I can hive and care for double the number of swarms in the same length of time. 2nd, I run my

bees in out apiaries; if I leave the yards for a few hours at any time there is a satisfaction in knowing, that no swarms have absconded in my absence.

This varies very much I "go into" all my hives three times each year, in some cases five or six times, but I will admit, that if a colony is in good condition, the less that they are manipulated the better.

C. W. POST.

Having a number of yards I do not watch for swarms, therefore I clip my queens to keep them from going with a swarm, should they do so in my absence.

I go "into or through" the brood chamber once in about eight days during the entire swarming season, and destroy all the queen cells.

A. D. ALLEN.

I do not believe in the idea of clipping queens for the reason that I have never found it necessary so to do. I have always been able to take care of swarming without so doing. Others feel differently, and I will leave it to the "clippers" to give reasons for so doing.

I. E. POYD,
North Attleboro, Mass.

I never clip the wings of my queens. For as soon as you clip them you make a cripple of them, and that is something I don't like to see in anything. You are liable to lose your queens in the grass, if you are not right on hand when the swarm comes out. You are liable to injure the queen in clipping her, that is, if you are a green hand at the business, for you are liable to take too much wing, or perhaps a leg or two. Then nobody would thank you for a queen with part of one wing of, if you were selling them a queen they would want a whole one I don't open my hives more than once in a year, and sometimes not that often. I can generally tell by the move of the bees at the entrance, if they want looking into.

JAS. ARMSTRONG.

Having queen's wings clipped does often save a lot of climbing and running after swarms and also serves as a mark, whereby one can keep record of the age of the insect thus far advantageous, but it certainly will not take the place of the apiarist or some watch in the bee yard. If absent under such conditions, he may in all probability hold the swarm just then issuing, which will return to their own or unite with another colony, but he runs a great risk thus of losing his queen, as she may not be able to return with them, or perhaps entering another hive gets killed. The new queenless colony proceeds to raise queens, they develop and hatch and lead off swarms in their turn, while the "apiarist" is happy

his false security, thinking all is safe and well with his clipped queen.

I would say, if you have not a sufficient number of colonies to make it necessary for you or some one being in or about the yard during the swarming season, rather use self hives. A very practical thing in this line is in the trade at present—the Pratt or the G. S. & M. improved self hiver, Pratt alleys queen and drone traps are useful in their way, and will in the majority of cases secure the queen.

Re "going into" the brood chamber, the less of that sort of thing done the better, unless when absolutely necessary. In a properly constructed hive there should be no extracting done from the brood chamber so that usually the only essential times and circumstances would be, say—when spring or full feeding might demand the adding of fall comb of honey and the removal of the empty, or after a swarm has issued—in about 21 days—to note if the young queen is all right and laying.

W. A. CRAIG,

Brantford, Ont.

Canadian Thistles.

BY F. ALEXIS GIMMELARIO.

Now is the time to see that no colony suffers from lack of stores. Brood rearing cannot be carried on to the best advantage, unless bees are well supplied with a reserve of honey, or its equivalent for a rainy day. I have known colonies to actually starve in the fore part of May, on account of a cool cloudy spell; causing a failure of the honey flow, when rearing large quantities of brood. Of course such colonies were living from hand to mouth, but the fact remained, that a little timely assistance would have saved them. Quite a loss at this time of year.

PRINTERS' SHORTCOMINGS.

I notice that, that man Gemmill, has been going for your printer's devil rather severely, for his substitutions, and omissions, and the publisher states that he (the devil) was so badly scared that Rossland, B. C., now possesses him. It is presumed, that he prefers delving with the miners, for the "filthy lucre," to digging out what he considered common sense from the Stratfordites manuscript. Be that as it may, your printer evidently took revenge before going, as he apparently, wilfully no doubt, substituted "first blooms" for what was, or ought to have been "fruit bloom"

in Mr. G's article, just preceding the caution, with the big YOU. I also note, he forgot to slip in a couple of leads between the editors foot note, and Mr. C. W. Post's reply, thus making it appear that it was a continuation of Mr. Gemmill's article.

MR. MCEVOY.

I was very much troubled when I saw your editorial note, stating that Mr. McEvoy had been ill. We cannot afford to lose such an efficient man as he. Why he is the greatest foul brood inspector in all creation, and is already known the world over, including Texas, California and Australia. I fear that he is working too hard, as well as losing some of his much needed sleep. Now Mc what ever you do, don't burn the candle at both ends, as the saying goes, like some of us have already done. Life is too short for that. At any rate do not let the fire in the stove proper go out at nights, when you set up answering correspondents. If I recollect correctly Mrs. McEvoy once said, you sometimes did so. Such conduct as that is very bad for La Grippe, especially during such changeable weather as we have been having. By the way I don't like the term foul brood inspector. Why not change it to inspector of apiaries. The latter term is certainly just as appropriate, and savers less of nausea, especially in connection with such a delicious article as honey. Let us have the change instanter.

IMBEDDING FOUNDATION BY ELECTRICITY.

Gleanings for March 15th, illustrates and gives direction for imbedding brood foundation by electricity. I think well of the plan, and advise those who do wire extensively, to get an apparatus. Complete outfit for only \$2 50. I am an advocate of using full sheets of foundation everytime. I am aware however, that every one does not think as I do, nor do I expect them to. I have nevertheless observed, that some of the beekeepers in Canada, and good ones too, who once condemned the practice are gradually changing their views on the subject, and now going just as strongly in favor of doing so. I recollect the editor of C. B. J. laughing at me for doing such a thing. I wish he would tell us why, he now impads by electricity, and strongly recommends others to follow suit.

There is another man, (an Italian from Limerick I think) whose name is McEvoy, who formally had no use for wires, any more than a dog had for two tails, but since he was appointed Inspector of Apiaries, and visited around, and "seen what he has seen," now uses wired frames, and advises every man, woman, and child to take

his advice. Well, I don't really wonder at him after all, for he has admitted to me on the quiet, that since he has had to descend into so many brood chambers, looking for traces of disease, that in many cases he could not even remove a comb from hives, that contained movable frames, (when first put into them) that were originally filled with full sheets of foundation.

Horizontal wiring seems now to be the favorite method, with four inches to the frame two inches apart, the first were about one inch from the top bar of the ordinary Langstroth frame, and the last wire $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch from the bottom bar. I tried this way of wiring some years ago, but the Given foundation saged and buckled, because I was told, I had wired too tightly. Loose wiring, and the new Weed foundation may overcome this difficulty. I'll try it.

[I don't think McEvoy and I have changed our views very much. A careful bee-keeper who does not ship bees about from place to place, does not require to wire, the inexperienced and careless would do better to wire. The Weed Process Foundation sags little, if any, you do not need to leave wires slack when using this.—ED.]

HAS RETURNED.

I have just learned, that Jacob has returned from the land of flowers. Of course everybody knows Jacob as a first-class Canadian apiarist, but in case there may be a few who do not recognize the above title, his other name is Alpaugh. I know a capital joke on that scallawag. Once upon a time, about two years ago, he and another Canadian bee-keeper were sojourning in California, visiting apiarists and seeing the sights in that clime. Well one day both started out from Los Angeles on a tour to Santa Monica, to enjoy the sea breezes, &c., and while gathering shells from the Pacific Coast, he shoved the 'tother fellows into the ocean for a salt water bath, with all his good clothes on. Jacob laughed so heartily for over two hours at his companion's misfortune, that he lost his equilibrium, and fell in himself, and felt so stupid and bewildered, that he mistook a garden full of cala lillies, for a field of Alfalfa clover, and laughed no more except to himself, all the time he remained in California. Now that he is once again on Canadian terra firma, I suppose he will laugh just a "wee bit" when he sees this.

NEW INVENTIONS.

Will apicultural inventions never cease?

I see we now have, in addition to all the other appliances, a divider, invented by Mr. S. T. Pettit of Belmont. Well, I am sure bee-keepers will forgive him, especially as he might have done worse, only I know that we would not be guilty of such an indiscretion. I am not in favor of many more devices, but really think this a good thing, and take this opportunity of publicly thanking Mr. Pettit, for so soon giving it to apiarists, after having first proved it a success in his own apiary, and at the same time desire to thank him for the sampler divider sent me for inspection. I observe that Gleanings, and some of its correspondents endorse the system, but I have not yet noticed, that the C. B. Journal has made any special mention of it. Possibly the editor's extreme modesty forbade him doing so, as the inventor, as most of us are aware, is Mr. H's worthy father-in-law.

I know that Mr. Pettit will not think that I am endeavoring to steal any of his thunder, when I state, that I have used two followers, one on each side of a T. super, made of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch lumber, not however so much for the purpose that Mr. P. desires, as to fill out the space, caused by adopting separators, and reducing the number of sections, from 28 to 24. These followers were not perforated, but had a bee space on one, or both sides of the super, according as the space room would admit, said space being formed by forcing in loose wedges for keying up the sections securely. Such a method, did assist in securing the end, claimed by Mr. Pettit. It is almost needless to add, that the perforated divider with the double bee space; in conjunction with the raising up of the hive from the bottom board, by inserting wedges at the front, will accomplish much, if not all that the inventor claims for the method. All honor to Mr. P.

P. S.—Why not also perforate the separators, but with fewer holes. I will try soon.

[As to Mr. Pettit's divider, we hope in the next number of the Canadian Bee Journal to give the result of a test with this system made for the Ontario Government. Illustration will appear in connection therewith. The Gould, Shapley & McCo., showed a super with the double bee space at the Toronto Exhibition three years ago last fall, but judges saw nothing in the invention, much to our disgust. The same idea struck us re separators. If it is a good thing for feeders, why should not be equally as good for separators? We have already given orders for some. The cost will however, be considerable.—ED.]

Notes For Beginners.

There is perhaps no one thing which has tended in greater degree, to failure in bee-keeping with beginners, than excessive swarming. No honey crop, robbing, winter losses, all follow more or less excessive swarming. Just as boils, pimples and the like do not originate on the surface of the skin, but are simply an indication of bad blood and a disordered digestion, so no honey crop, robbing and many losses in winter, are frequently the result of excessive swarming. Let me explain.

One who has corresponded with and met thousands of bee-keepers all over the country, can only know to what extent this idea prevails with beginners, and those not beginners, but who foolishly think they cannot afford a Bee Journal. They tell us their bees are doing well, and when you ask for particulars they give the extent of their increase. "I have increased from five to fifteen." "I began the season with one swarm and now have five." Such ideas show crudeness of information upon the subject. Some may argue "but I want to increase my apiary." I do not care what you want you want to do, the idea is wrong. A system of management under which such can happen, is all wrong nine hundred and ninety nine times out of a thousand. To enlarge your apiary, and especially applicable is this to the inexperienced, the worker forces want to be kept together. Instead of a handful of bees in each of a dozen hives, or even a very light swarm in each of a dozen hives, I would prefer the same number doubled up, or better, never divided, and giving three or five colonies, comfortably filling the hive.

The system has been this. A beginner in the production of honey, begins at the top product and he generally drops through to the production of nothing, before he gets through. By that I mean, he decides to produce what requires the most skill and experience to produce. He begins with comb honey. Now in the production of comb honey, he thinks it is less trouble and he does not require to purchase, or have a honey extractor. What are the facts? to produce nice comb honey, is the highest test of skill in the apiarist.

I shall take up again the production of comb and extracted honey, but to illustrate my point. For comb honey you must have strong colonies, and to get well finished sections, you must keep them close to the

swarming impulse. Give them abundance of room and you have in all probability, a lot of cull section bringing a price yielding no profit. Crowd the section too much and the bees swarm. It is a very difficult matter to see that narrow course between the two, no inexperienced bee-keeper can tread that narrow path. In extracted honey plenty of room, within moderation, does no harm. One way to prevent excessive swarming then, is to begin producing extracted honey. Another way is to put supers on in time, and use enough of them. The practice too often, is to allow the bees to swarm before the upper stories are put on, this gives early and small swarms, as soon as the lower part of the hive, the brood chamber, becomes crowded, which is indicated by full combs. Of course, a cell with only an egg in it, is to the bees a full cell, bits of new comb built along the top bar, and fresh looking capping along the top bar. When this is the condition of the brood chamber, put on upper stories. You may say this delays swarming, and we want early swarms. "A swarm in May, is worth a load of hay." Well we do not believe this always holds good, we want large swarms as early as possible, but only when they swarm after certain things have been done to hold swarming in check, resulting in large swarms. Again instead of using only one upper story, as so many do, we use several. This prevents swarming.

VENTILATION.

Many hives throughout the country have too small an entrance and are nailed, or fastened to the bottom board. We want an entrance the full width of the hive, you can easily contract it by means of blocks. There are many reasons why the bottom board should be loose. Mr. Pettit has a system of ventilating hives when crowded with bees and the weather warm: he takes an inch strip the length of the side of the hive, then rips this diagonally across, giving him two wedges the length of the hive seven-eighths inches at one end, and tapering to a point at the other. When the bees become uncomfortable, he raises the front of the hive from the bottom board and inserts this wedge, wide end at the entrance, under each side, thus enlarging the entrance $\frac{2}{3}$ of an inch, the full width of the entrance. Mr. C. W. Post has an excellent way of ventilating, he puts a wire screen under the brood chamber and on top of the bottom board. The frame of the screen, has an entrance the same size as the bottom board. When the bees get uncomfortable he draws the hive and screen back on the bottom board, and a current of air can

pass through that portion of the wire screen projecting over the bottom board. The hive can be drawn back nearly half way on the bottom board, and there can be no danger of tipping. The screen might be dispensed with, but the bees in the hive, and outside enemies could then make an entrance of this portion, which would not be desirable.

Another way would be to cut an opening in the bottom board, arrange to close this with a solid or wire screen slide, as desired. But this means a good deal of additional expense, and supply dealers say, and I think with some show of justice, that beginners and inexperienced bee-keepers do not sufficiently appreciate well made hives now, and extra cost is objectionable. It increases the expense of manufacture, and of course the selling price, and those not seeing the value of accurate bee space, smooth work and well designed hives, prefer to purchase where they can get the cheapest, or rather lowest priced hives. I believe myself that for that reason, anyone desiring these slides should have them put in himself. But perhaps Mr. Post's method, or Mr. Pettit's will answer as well.

Now as to the top of the hive, ventilation should not be given from here. I do not believe in following natural inclination blindly, but the bees in nature hermetically seal as soon as possible the top of the hive. In the last number of the Canadian Bee Journal I explained some objection to ventilating at the top of the hive. Such a system is not desirable. But shade the hive. In the spring and early summer, the more warmth the hive absorbs from the sun the better, but when the heat of the sun makes the bees in the hive feel uncomfortable it is time to shade. Grape vines, which do not leaf out until about the time that the bees require shade are excellent if properly trained. Trees trimmed in such a way that the sun's rays strike the hive in early morning and late afternoon are very desirable. Failing this boards can be used to shade the top of the hive, and the portions of the hive exposed to the sun's rays during the warmest part of the day. A honey beard, as described in last month's "Notes," allows us to raise the cover proper at the back, and this then becomes a shade board. Heavy projecting lids, with a cushion between the lid and the honey board are good, but here the same trouble arises. Bee-keepers do not appreciate their value, they are expensive, and the supply dealer dare not add that cost to hives. While in my estimation they are the best cover, the plans otherwise mentioned are a long way ahead of present systems.

By keeping bees together we secure strong full colonies which will work better defend their hive better, and winter better. Such management gives much more satisfactory results. It takes so many bees to do the work of the hive, defend it, gather the honey required by the bees themselves. Those above that number give you your surplus. The more the bees are kept together, the greater the percentage of bees which can work to give you surplus crop. In the next number I propose to take up management for comb or extracted honey. In closing let me say get your supplies in time, and use full sheets in sections and in brood frames.

Mr. E. B. Weed, the Inventor and
Expert Wax-Worker.

It would be a revelation to some of you if you could see the improvements that have been made in making comb foundation. The old way was to dip a thin board into a deep vessel of wax enough times to secure a sheet on both sides. It was then cooled in water, and the film stripped off. It was next run through the mills piece by piece, and each time it was necessary to "pick" and "claw" at the ends of the sheets sticking to the rolls as they came through. This operation did not improve the face of the mills, or the foundation. After the sheets were milled they had to be piled up, and cut to a size by hand, causing anywhere from 25 to 33 per cent trimmings that had to be melted over again. Last of all, the sheets were papered by hand and made ready for boxing.

Now if you were to peek into our wax working department you would see an attendant pick up a big cake of yellow wax (60 lbs) and set it into a machine, as it were, and then he leaves it and goes about other work. After it comes out it is converted into a long continuous sheet rolled up on a bobbin. This bobbin is then put into another automatic machine by the same or another attendant; the machine is started, and when this long bobbin of wax begins to unreel it is fed into the comb-mill and is cut to size without waste. There is a click-clack, and the trimmed sheet is next made to lie squarely over a sheet of paper of the same size as itself, and picked up; another click-clack, and it asks a hop skip, and a jump on top of the pile; and fingers almost human, but as lifeless as

a barn door, true up the pile as evenly and nicely as you could do it with your fingers.

Nearly all of this is the result of the brains of one man, Mr. E. B. Weed, whose picture I take pleasure in presenting at this time. If he had done no more, his happiness would be all but supreme. But he is the inventor of the new deep-cell drawn foundation, to which I have referred in former issues. Even before he came here he was the inventor and patentee of a number of other articles, one of which I know he sold for a round sum.



MR. E. B. WEED.

Like every inventor, he has had his discouragements. His machinery and his appliances for wax-working all seemed to fail to work until he ran across the skilled employes of The A. I. Root Co., and the confidence of the firm itself in his inventions. Many and many a time it looked as if failure was sure to meet him as it had done when he worked for others having less confidence in his wild (?) schemes; but Mr. Weed, undaunted, and with a hope almost superhuman, and with assurance that our country would back him, would work and plod away until success was his.

When trying to solve a problem I have seen him so excited, and so thoroughly absorbed, that he scarcely knew what was going on about him. I remember once when one of his machines got into a "balky spell" (at the start they all had 'em), and in

order to make his kid "come to time," as he called it, in passing to the other side of the machine he collided with one of the women-folks carrying a pile of wax—knocked the pile over, and the woman too, nearly, but scarcely seemed to realize that he had had a collision and scattered the nice wax all over the floor. I have seen an idea seize him so quickly when walking, that, when he turned about face in his sudden nervous way, his feet slid from under him, and down he went in an ungainly heap. But he quickly regained his feet and so absorbed was he, that he seemed almost totally ignorant of the episode, but he had the idea; and not withstanding I was convulsed with laughter he went on to tell me what it was; and as I continued laughing he innocently asked me what I saw so funny.

During the last few days Mr. Weed has been fussing (I guess that's the word) with a machine that would not do his bidding. I had balky spell after balky spell. He knew it would work, but was so tired out when I came into the room that he could not think any more, much less see where the naughty "kink" was. The next day after a night's rest—if indeed he rested at all—he went at it again with a determination that I knew meant the machine had got to work, and it did; and to-day he sees the triumph of his perseverance and skill with that particular machine. The benign smile that now plays upon his face is contagious, for one can not but admire such pluck.

While he does not profess to be a mechanic, he seems to have a remarkable perception for mechanical possibilities. He will grasp an idea in an instant (he doesn't always tumble down). As indicative of his quick perception, he will take a whole page of reading-matter on the most obtruse subject, catch the whole idea, read every word of it in a tenth of the time it takes people generally.

Just where he will turn his inventive genius after he has made the wax business reach its summit, is hard to say.

[As the above applies very largely, in fact almost altogether, to our own method of making comb foundation, and as the first sheeting machine was made in the Gould Shapely and Muir Co. Ltd. factory, we reproduce the above article from *Gleanings in Bee Culture*. Mr. Weed deserves a great deal more than we believe bee-keepers at the present time realize, and we venture to predict that his name will before long be recognized amongst the greatest of apicultural benefactors.—Ed. C. B. J.]

Notes and Pickings.

BY D. W. HEISE.

I know that yellow bees are not always five-banded Italians. Mine are nothing more than Syprians, at least possess every reported characteristic of that strain. They breed and breed until the hive is full to overflowing. But storing honey does not seem to be their calling. Are they gentle? Well, they remind me of Mark Twain's Hornets, he said they always carry their pen-knife in their hip pocket, with the blade open, and ever ready to tickle one very uncomfortably.

What stand should Canadian bee-keepers take in regard to the Bee-Keepers Union and the American Bee-keeper's Association? I was very glad to see the mild way in which the above question was handled at the Toronto convention, and also the delicate manner in which it was disposed of. My own opinion is, that about all the Canadians could fairly expect from the amalgamation of the above societies under the new name, is the tail feathers of the eagle, while the Americans retain the head and the remainder of the carcass, and are they not justly entitled to it. If they see fit to have a purely National organization, I am sure Canadians will not object.

I know there is nothing in my locality to be relied upon for a crop of surplus honey, but alsike, clover and basswood. Verily, how short the honey season is.

I seldom open a bee hive at any time unless I have the smoker lighted, and in good working order, sitting near by, in case of emergency. Very often I can, and do open hives without blowing smoke down among the bees, but then it is a risky business. Sometimes I have half a notion the bees know just when you are prepared for battle, and about how much ammunition you have. J. M. Young in A. B. J. That's what, Mr. Young—

.....
 FOWLS, PURE HONEY FOR
 SALE HERE.

DON'T BUY IMITATIONS.

Now look here, Does not such a label or playcard as the above bring before the eyes of the public in a very conspicuous way that

there are imitations. And does it not tend to leave the impression that the generality of honey offered for sale is adulterated, which I do not believe is the case. Honey vendors should be careful in framing the phraseology of their labels.

[Yes, I think such words are injudicious, probably they were put on without considering the injury they might do.—Ed.]

I know there is a marked difference in the color of honey extracted from dark and light combs. But after dark combs have been extracted from two or three times, the difference is very slight indeed.

[We do not think there is any difference, after having been used several times—Ed.]

I know that double bottoms for packet hives are useless. What is the use of two bottoms with packing between, and allow four or five inches of an opening for the cold to rush in over the top of the packing? I now use a bottomless and topless box for a hive stand, and if there is any virtue in a double bottom, I claim I get the full benefit of it at a less expense. I am speaking of outdoor wintering only.

"What I have done is to use two honey boards (queen excluders) and from experience I am convinced that they do not interfere with the working of the bees. At first I was very obstinate about it, but after experimenting with hive after hive, I was forced to the conclusion against my own judgement that they did not interfere with the working of the bees above." Mr. Hoshal at Toronto convention. This coming from such an authority as Mr. Hoshal, it may be accepted as a fact. Although I never conducted any experiments along this line. I always figured from a theoretical stand point, that queen excluders did interfere to a greater or lesser extent with the bees in storing above, and often looked upon them as a necessary evil. I am very glad that Mr. Hoshal can assure us for a certainty that such is not the case.

[We were at Mr. Hoshal's apiary yesterday, March 18th, and will have something to say upon this question later.—Ed.]

I have never had but one comb melt down in my hives from hot weather in seven years. Have never used any shade boards. This result is owing no doubt to my hives all being double walled, filled with dry sawdust. While this kind of a hive is somewhat cumbersome in handling, they nevertheless have advantages over single wall in some ways at least that are not to be sniffed at.

[We do not use double walled hives and

never had combs melt down. Use light colored hives, give plenty of ventilation below and good comb foundation properly fastened.—Ed.]

I know there is a great difference between wide and narrow top bars in regard to the building of brace combs. I am using both $\frac{3}{8}$ and 1 inch top bars promiscuously in my hives, and while the 1 inch bars are generally free from that nuisance, where any attention has been given to proper spacing, they are nearly always very prominent on the $\frac{3}{8}$ flames.

I know that much swarming with me has always been at the expense of a surplus crop of honey. In a locality where a good fall flow can be had, it may be quite different.

"Comb foundation has certainly injured the eating qualities of our comb honey, although it may have, and probably has, greatly increased the quantity. I presume, in fact I feel certain, that the use of this new foundation (deep cell) will increase the quantity of our comb honey, but I do certainly fear for its effect upon its quality. Comb honey is a luxury, a luxurious luxury, and when people find it is honey done up in tough leathery wax that forms in "robs" in the mouths, I fear that it will lose its luxurious character." (W. Z. Hutchinson, in A. B. J., in reference to deep cell foundation). I do not know that I dare venture an opinion on the above. But if I did I should just like to whisper that I half believe that Hutchie's head is level on this point, even though his pedal extremities do not always track on other points.

Allow me to enter a protest against more wax in comb honey. We have it in excess already. It may yet become profitable to abandon yellow bees, comb foundation and the honey extraction, in order to meet a demand for the best honey that can be produced. L. F. Bingham in A. B. J. Do you hear that? I told you so.

J. M. Young in A. B. J., in speaking of handling bees, says:—"And after a short time you will be surprised to learn how easy it is to avoid their stings, in fact after continued practice it will soon become natural, and a pleasant pastime." I wonder if he means the stings. If so please send me some of your bees Mr. Young.

(TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT NUMBER.)

Messrs. C. W. Post & Son.

One of the men in Canada who have made bee-keeping their sole occupation and who made more than a living is Mr. C. W. Post, Trenton, Ont. Mr. Post was born in Prince Edward County in 1845. At the age of twenty he learned the trade of tanner in the tannery which he afterwards ran for 24 years. He was married to Henrietta Weller, a member of the old family of Wellers, some of the first settlers from which Weller's Bay derives its name. This family was largely engaged in lumbering. They have seven children, six sons and a daughter. Three have left school, one being with the American Watch Case Co., one, Ernest, of whom an engraving



C. W. Post.

is found in connection with sketch, is with his father helping him, and he is owner of a part of the bees. The third is in a drug store in Trenton. Mr. Post became interested in bees in 1878 and gradually increased until he has now about 350 colonies and is engaged in no other business. In the past Mr. Post has sold many colonies at \$10 per colony, but even at that price he did not care to sell bees for he could make \$14 to \$16 out of them in a season. He runs Ontario apiaries largely. The Central Ontario Railroad Company, unlike some other railroad companies, deal with Mr. Post in such a way that he can afford to move bees from place to place. This gives

the railroad company a good deal of business and it also benefits the bee-keeper.

Extracted honey is largely taken and the honey marketed in barrels. Mr. Post said Ontario apiaries run as he runs them cannot well be run for comb honey. The bees are generally divided into three apiaries and no one to watch for swarms unless he or his son is there to perform other duties. The percentage of swarms is so small that it does not pay to engage anyone to watch for swarms.



ERNEST POST.

Two years ago Mr. Post and his family moved from Murray or Weller's Bay to his present beautiful and comfortable home in Trenton. In the present number of the Canadian Bee Journal we give an engraving of Mr. Post and his son Ernest, and we hope at a future date, if Mr. Post keeps his promise, to give our readers a view of his home and apiary.

Mr. Post takes a great interest in hunting. He is a good sportsman, as are also several of his sons. He held the position of Secretary-Treasurer of a large Union school board, and as there was a large property owned by the school section there was more than double the ordinary business to attend to. Mr. Post and his son have promised to contribute regularly to the Canadian Bee Journal. Amongst other things a description of some of their methods and notes from the apiary will be given.

Staples for Frames.

—W. C. WELLS—

I see that E. R. Root has got a new device for spacing frames endways, by driving staples under the flat end of the top bar, just far enough to have the bee space between the end of the hive and frame, then cut a little of the end of the top bar about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch for bee space. I think it is a good plan and I will try it in the spring. I have long used staples for spacing frames sideways and it does well. My frames hang on metal or folded strips of tin, they are cut as large as the hive is wide and $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch wide and folded in the middle that leaves them about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wide, then I take a strip off the top of the end board of the hive and the inside $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch and $\frac{3}{4}$ deep and nail on the folded tin so as to have it $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch above the end bar for the frames to hang on; then I drive in staples in the top of the end board close to the tin just the right distance apart to space the frames and lean against the tins and drive in so they will be $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch above the tin. My frames are a plump inch.

Dr. E. Gallup in the American Bee Journal tells of a Mr. Paxton in California, who has succeeded in getting a queen fertilized by drones raised from an unimpregnated queen. Now if Mr. Paxton had experimented as much as I have he would not have said so. I have no doubt he has such drones, but I think he has drones from other Queens too, such drones are no good. I also think that drones from an Italian Queen that has mated with a black drone are hindered just as much as the workers are. If you depend on such drones to mate your Italian Queens you will have a very few with their progeny marked with three bands. I always have drone traps on all of my hives that have drones not fit to breed from, and I get more queens purely mated.

I dare not say outright that an egg that will raise a drone is impregnated just as well as an egg that will raise a worker bee, for someone will want to call me a fool.

But the world does turn round all the same.

Phillipston.

[Friend Wells—You may be right about drones raised from impregnated queens also about the purity of drones raised from a mismated Italian queen, I don't know. But I feel quite sure you are all wrong.]

about the impregnation of the egg which produces a drone. About those staples for securing a bee space at the end of the top bars, it is surprising, and yet when one considers its value, it is not surprising how bee-keepers are catching on to this new idea. Also the new cover, as described in the Goold, Shapley & Muir Co., Ltd. catalogues. They never had so many orders for hives.—ED]

Setting Out the Bees.

APRIL NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL ONTARIO APARIES.

The first day of active operations in the apiary for 1897, opened upon the morning of March 29th, it being the first day on which the bees that were wintered on their summer stands, enjoyed a cleansing flight. Although the snow was all gone and the water settled away, there was not a day before the above date, that the bees could have a flight.

I wintered 45 colonies on their summer stands in double walled hives filled with 4 inches of sawdust, prepared in October last as follows. The combs were perforated and a top storey placed on each hive. Twenty-five colonies were packed with six inches of cast off woollen clothing, ten were packed same thickness with newly fallen forest leaves, and the balance with dry pine sawdust, in each case the packing came down solid on the frames. Then I placed a piece of board, cut two inches less than the inside measurement of top stories, on the packing, and on the board laid a stone weighing about ten pounds to keep the leaves and old clothing down solid, I left off honey boards and placed an inch square strip under back ends of suncap to allow moisture to escape. They all had a good flight on November 25th, then again about one half of them enjoyed a flight on January 3rd. I tried to make them all fly, but they would not, then on March 29th all that were alive, had a good flight.

The first work of the season was to change the location of some of the double walled hives, some of them being too close to the clothes line, and the little boys thought others were too close to the Delaware grape vines. After the necessary changes were made, the shade boards were removed and in a short time they poured forth strong and vigorous. The packing was all removed and anything showing dampness was dried, and towards evening a piece of enamel cloth was placed over

each colony, over this a few layers of paper, then the packing was replaced with the board and stone on top and the suncaps put on snug and tight. All had plenty of honey and they will not be disturbed again before warm weather in May. Forty-two of the lot are in fine condition, and three that were not very strong were dead. I wintered 280 colonies in 4 cellars, 70 colonies in each cellar. On March 30th, the contents of cellar No. 1 was placed on their summer stands and scattered as much as possible. The next day came cellar No. 2 and distributed in different parts of the yard. The two following days the balance were carried out and by being careful not to set the newly carried out ones very close together, there was no mixing up that I could notice. The loss from those in the cellar was 7 colonies, undoubtedly there will be a greater loss than this resulting from queenlessness, drone layers and other causes.

The weather has been so cold and unfavorable so far in April, that very little work has been done with the bees. I don't care to disturb them much before settled warm weather. I will undertake to furnish monthly a diary of the season's work, which will include taking them to out apiaries in car lots in May, then moving them again in August by rail and boat to the Murray Canal for the buckwheat flow, then home again for winter quarters. It may be of some benefit to new beginners, it certainly will amuse the specialists and older boys, as it will furnish them with many a hearty laugh over my mistakes.

C. W. Post.

Trenton, April, 1897.

A Report.

—BY FRANCIS ORTT.

Friend Holtermann:—As I have not written to you for some time, I will try and do so now. I do not know that I have anything to write, but I want to see the C. B. J. grow and prosper, as it is always a welcome visitor. I had 75 colonies of bees last fall, 74 now. One came out queenless. I winter on summer stands, part in chaff hives and part with outside winter cases. I have two weak colonies that I may lose yet, the remainder are all strong. This is a very early spring here. Bees brought in some pollen April 2nd. They have rushed business to-day April 5th, as it has been a mild day. In 1893 the bees commenced getting pollen April the 8th; 1894, April 13th; 1895,

April 18th; 1896. April 12th; this is the earliest season in 5 years. What the honey crop will be is hard to say yet, the clover is pretty badly hurt here, but if we have plenty of rain, it may be pretty fair yet. The farmers are cutting the basswood here very fast, but there is some left yet, clover and basswood are the main things we depend on for honey. Buckwheat never yields much here, but last season was an extra good one for buckwheat, and I got a good flow of honey for the first time. I will run about half of my bees for comb honey. This season should be good, there is quite a demand here for comb honey.

Darling Road, Ont., April 5th, 1897.

Brant Bee-keepers Association.

The above association will meet at the Court House, Brantford, on Saturday, May 15th, 2 p. m. In addition to an interesting programme business in connection with affiliation with the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association, the Southern Fair, etc., will be discussed.

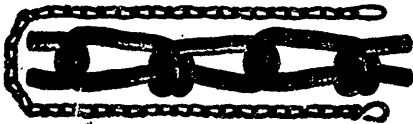
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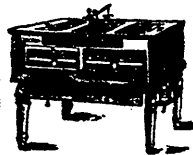
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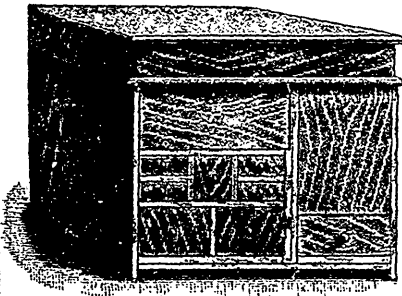
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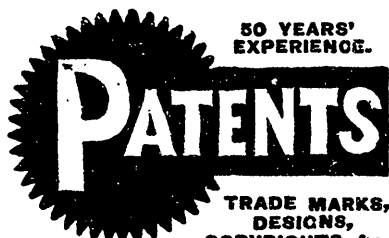
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