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CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

NEW SERIES
Vol. III, No. 4.

BRANTFORD, ONT., OCT., 1896.

WHOLE No.
380

The Ontario Bee-Keepers Association will meet in Toronto, probably the Council Chambers, Dec. 8th, 9th Annual Meeting, and 10th. This is the decision of the executive,

messrs. Holtermann, Pickett and Gemmeil, which met in Toronto, Sept., 3rd. A good programme has been prepared. There will be no open evening meeting as for the last three years, and as the papers and discussions are fixed for certain hours and a certain time every one can come with the assurance that there will be a great deal of discussion relating to the practical work in apiculture. A bill of fare for the beginner has not been forgotten. Let the meeting be held one and let affiliated societies send the delegates they can. Often several go by having a portion of each expense paid, while if all the expenses of one or two members were paid these could go. Having harmony and useful discussions may have our grant increased, and in all probability this will mean an increased grant to affiliated societies. Let everyone go with a determination to have a good time.

* * *

We regret to say that owing to the smallness of the prizes offered at Montreal, and for other reasons at the Montreal Exhibition, there was an entire absence of entries in honey at the Exhibition. As we could find out when we visited Montreal was one lot of beeswax. Montreal and that city can do better than this, and that another year a greater effort

will be made to induce first-class exhibitors of honey to attend. Poor judging has done much to discredit the exhibition.

* * *

The Central Canadian Exhibition, Ottawa was highly successful. There was a very fair display of honey made. Mr. Percy H. Central Canadian Exhibition, Ottawa, Selwyn, Ottawa, made a very neat display showing forth the natural history of the bee. Mr. Wm. Alford, had some fine lots of extracted honey and as usual displays a choice quality of honey vinegar. We would like some one in this part of the country to take this matter in hand and supply the people with a wholesome vinegar. Unfortunately too many specimens of vinegar are on the market at present and injurious owing to adulterations. The Gould, Shapley & Muir Co., made a good display of honey, bee-keepers' supplies and such lines.

* * *

We are very much pleased to announce that owing to bee-keepers associations having

ing twice made their headquarters at the hotel of Mr. Palmer, he has consented to make the rate \$1.00 per day for those willing to double up in rooms, and \$1.25 single. Mr. Palmer keeps a splendid hotel, \$2.00 per day. The location, Cor. King and York streets, Toronto. The date of the convention is Dec. 9th, 10th and 11th. Let us have a rousing meeting. A good programme has been prepared.

INTRODUCING QUEENS.

EMERSON T. ABBOTT.

I am daily led to wonder why it is that all the bee books and circulars issued by queen breeders, and writers for bee journals insist on the importance of making a colony queenless for three days before a new queen is introduced. I have before me one of Mr. Alley's circulars, in which he says, "I find the three day plan the safest for general use. A colony that has been queenless for three days, or seventy-two hours, will usually accept a strange queen." Now, Mr. Alley is an old and experienced breeder, but notwithstanding this, I venture to assert that a colony that has been queenless three days will not accept a queen any more readily than will a colony which has not been queenless three minutes, if properly managed before, and at the time the queen is released.

Not only this, but I go farther and say that making the colony queenless three days before the queen is released always increases the danger of the bees killing the queen, to say nothing about the loss of the young bees, which is bound to take place if the colony is left without a queen for three days during the time in which queens are busily engaged in laying eggs. Since this method of introduction is absolutely unnecessary, I cannot see why this greater risk and loss should be incurred. I might remark, however, that the above instructions are in full harmony with the general teachings upon the subject, but I think I can show the reader "a more excellent way," and I will endeavor to make it clear to anyone, even though he has never seen a queen in a cage.

When your queen reaches you, if ordered by mail from a queen breeder, she will be enclosed, with some attendant bees, in a small wooden cage divided off into two or three compartments, one of which should contain food enough for her, and the bees which accompany her, for several days. Over the open side of the cage will be tacked a piece of wire cloth, and over this a thin board. Then board should be removed and the queen examined at once to see if she is all right. Then examine and see if there is plenty of food in the cage to last the bees two or three days. Tack a piece of thin wood over the end of the cage which contains the candy, but leave the other end uncovered, so the bees in the hive

where the queen is to be introduced can get at the wire cloth. Pay no attention to the old queen until you are ready to release the new one, as per the directions given below.

Place the cage containing the new queen on top of the frames of the hive containing the colony to which you want to introduce the queen. Place the wire side down, between two of the frames, so that the bees in the hive will have opportunity to communicate freely with the queen and bees in the cage and thus enable them to become acquainted with each other. If the frames are covered with board, it will be better to substitute a heavy cloth for this until the queen is released. Leave the bees and queen in the cage on the hive for two or three days, and then open the hive and hunt out the old queen, being careful to disturb the bees as little as possible. As soon as the old queen is found, cage her or kill her at once and close up the hive as expeditiously as possible. Remove the board from over the candy and turn back the wire cloth just a little ways, so the bees in the hive can have access to the candy, and then place the cage back on the hive the same as before. Some cages have a plug in the end containing the food, so that it is only necessary to remove this to give the bees access to the candy. Close up the hive and leave it alone, and in a short time the bees will eat their way into the cage and release the queen and bees, and the work is done.

A colony treated in this way will not be queenless to exceed two or three hours and but little time will be lost, as the new queen is very apt to commence laying the next day. Queens can be introduced in this way at any season of the year, and there is no danger of loss if these instructions are carried out properly. Dealers, if they so desire, can keep several queens on a hive, in the way suggested above, for a week or more at a time, and then introduce any one of them to the colony whenever they wish, after the third day, as the bees would accept any one of the queens thus kept on the hive.

As to making a colony queenless three days, I simply say, do not do it unless you want to increase the danger of having the queen killed and lose valuable time besides.

I might say, in conclusion, that there is less danger of loss by any method of introduction when the bees are strong honey rapidly and there has not been any robbing going on in the apiary for some days.

St. Joseph, Mo.

The Prevention of Swarming— Questions.

FROM THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL.

[We received the following letter from Dr. Miller, in which he asks "The Dadant," some questions. Upon its receipt, we forwarded the letter, and in due time, there came back with it a reply from both Mr. Chas. Dadant and his son, C. P. The Doctor's letter and his two answers are as follows;—Ed.]

MESSRS. DADANT & SON:—You have done what you could to embitter my life by keeping bees that would not swarm, or by keeping hives from which bees would not swarm. At any rate, you report only from three to five colonies out of a hundred as swarming, and you attribute it chiefly to the large amount of room you give your colonies. This year I gave to most of my colonies 16 Langstroth combs, making, I think, about one-third more capacity than you give to your colonies. Most of them were reduced to one story with eight frames at the time of putting on supers, but before being so reduced a number of them made ready for swarming, and of those left on 16 frames the large majority decided to swarm.

It might be said that being in two stories the bees did not work in both, but that is a mistake, there was brood in both stories, and the queen went freely from one story to another. Now, why do my bees deport themselves so different from yours? Is it "locality," or is their something in the shape of the hive? Is it some witchcraft you brought over from France? If the latter, will you teach me the secret if I come down to your place?

Enviously yours

C. C. MILLER.

CHAS. DADANT'S ANSWER TO DR. MILLER.

There is nothing in discordance with what we hold to be the habits of the bees, in the above facts as described by Dr. Miller. The frames of our large hives have about 100,000 cells; those of the 8-frame Langstroth about 60,000, or two together about 120,000, but as soon as the crop begins we add the super containing about 50,000 cells, and when this is a little over half full we add a second one, if the season is favorable, thus raising the capacity of the hive to 200,000 cells.

The difference in the quantity of swarms is not due only to those successive enlarg-

ments of the hive. A colony in a state of nature, always builds its combs from the top down, and continues them downward without interruption, without leaving any space open. The queen may thus run over them without obstacles or irregularities. It is not thus with a double-story hive, and for that reason the queen always hesitates more or less either to go up into the upper tier or down again in the lower. The upper combs are separated from the lower, by the top-bar of the lower combs, the empty space, and the bottom-bar of the upper combs. This space compels her to hunt around in the dark, in a way which is not according to her instinct.

In a large, single-story hive the case is different. She finds in a brood chamber the entire space that she needs.

In our apiary of about 80 colonies, here at home, we have had but two swarms this season. We should gladly welcome Dr. Miller, and show him how our bees behave with our methods.

In a criticism on page 891, Mr. Doolittle, speaking of large hives, writes that it is useless to have hives full of brood and bees in the month of March, for it would be as if one hoed the potatoes before they were up. We do not know where Mr. Doolittle has seen hives full of brood and bees in March, probably not in our latitude, which is about the same as his.

It is just the other way. In either large or small hives, one usually does not get brood and bees as early as one would wish. Every season we try to induce our bees to breed early, by giving them flour before the pollen comes.

I would add that I would be very glad to find a way to get still stronger colonies than we usually have in April, for their is a great deal of fruit-bloom every year, and at that time there are but few colonies, even in large hives, that are sufficiently strong to harvest more than is necessary to breed from.

CHAS. DADANT.

C. P. DADANT'S ANSWER.

Dr. Miller is either trying to poke fun at us, or he is wanting to bring us out with our hobbies. I rather think the latter is the case. Although Dr. M.'s motto is "I don't know," we suspect him of knowing a great deal more than he lets on, and we think that he is not nearly so ignorant as he would let us believe. Well, Doctor, we will take you as if in dead earnest, and will "talk back." Right here, in the home apiary, we have about 80 colonies just now. We have had two swarms, and think we have lost another. Mr. Dadant, senior, has had the task of watching the

bees, and he seems to think that he is wasting his time. Here are two colonies side by side, both apparently very strong. We opened their hives about a week ago, and found one of them with about five extracting-frames full of honey, the centre ones partly sealed, but the other nine frames nearly dry. The supers are of the American size, and hold 14 half frames. The colony is evidently expected to fill the entire width by and by, but their restricting themselves to a certain number of combs shows that they do not feel crowded, and are comfortable. There are no idle bees on the outside.

The other hive has a large cluster hanging on the outside (*elles font la barbe*), literal translation, "they make a beard" — a very explicit way of putting it, if it is French. An examination of the inside reveals less honey than the other colony, but that honey is scattered all through the super from one end to the other, and not a single cell sealed.

Why, then, do they hang out, since they have room to spare, their super having really less honey than that of the other colony.

My dear, sir, it is very plain — they are crowded. Their hive, although very large, and their large super, are both inadequate, or perhaps they suffer more from the heat, owing to being more exposed to the sun. At any rate they cannot all stay inside. We will try one remedy first. We take one of the entrance-blocks, and raise the hive from its bottom, in front, placing the block under the edge of the hive. This gives them a good chance to ventilate the entire hive from several sides. No tight bottoms with us, you understand.

Two days after we examine again. That hive still has a number of bees on the outside, while the other has not an idle worker. It won't do to let it "make the beard" so long, and we will add another super. Raising the first one, we find that there are about 15 pounds of honey in it, and that they have made but little headway.

We now have two supers, or room for 120 pounds on this hive. This morning we examined it. They have honey in both supers, and I am glad to say, not a bee is idle — no more harber needed. I have not the shadow of a doubt that you will agree with me when I say that this colony would have been very likely to swarm had we not done as we did. You will also agree that, if it does swarm, there will be nothing astonishing about it, because, as we all know, when they once have the swarming-fever there is no cure except by swarming.

Dr. Miller tells us that he put a number of colonies on 16 frames, that is, two

8-frame brood-nests and that a number of them made ready for swarming. We would have to know just when those additional hives were put on to have an opportunity of ascertaining what is the probable trouble. From what the Doctor says, they must have laid eggs and reared brood quite plentifully in those two stories, and the colonies must have been about one half more populous than those on eight frames.

They must have needed, then, nearly twice as much surplus room as the others, and yet with a floor space of an 8 frame hive there is only room for 25 sections in one tier. It is true that you can pile several stories on top of each other, but this is not usually done. How many did you put on? Then the ventilation is much more difficult.

I remember some 25 years ago when we were still using the little square 6-pound honey-box with glass on four sides, and an inch hole at the bottom, I often wondered why the bees remained idle on the outside and not a bee would go into those boxes. It was the heat and lack of ventilation that hindered them. We had a very good chance of making sure of this when we began using the section honey-box, thanks to C. L. Adair, of Kentucky. His section honey-box was too large, but it was a great improvement on the glass box, for the bees had much better access to it.

Doctor, put the supers on, but put on enough to give them a good chance. The great trouble in producing comb honey is that you do not wish to put on so many that they may leave a lot of them unsealed, and it is a much finer task to judge of proper space to give than when to expect to extract it for in the latter case it does not matter a particle whether the honey is sealed or not, so it has been well ripened.

But I wish to say much more on this subject, and will ask leave to put off the balance till another day.

C. P. DADANT.

Hamilton, Ill., June 24.

Foul Brood and the Board of Agriculture.

The full text of the leaflet just issued by the Board of Agriculture, which we put below, will help to make clear the nature of the disease with which it deals, and there are good reasons for hoping that its distribution — by Government authorities — will have the effect of forcing some truth regarding foul brood which should be generally known by all who have anything to do with bees, altogether apart from

systems of management. Differences of opinion may exist as to the relative merits of modern bee-keeping and the old or skep system, but there can surely be no divergence of views regarding the need for stamping out so common an enemy to success in the pursuit as is dealt with below:—

Leaflet No. 32.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

FOUL BROOD OR BEE PEST.

Foul brood or bee pest is the most terrible scourge of apiculture. It spreads so rapidly by contagion in a single season that, unless precautions are taken, a whole neighbourhood may become effected, and the chances of successful bee-keeping therein will be seriously imperilled, if not utterly destroyed.

Foul brood is caused by a rod-shaped micro-organism, called *bacillus alvei*, which increases by splitting, and has, under certain conditions, the power of forming spores. It is important to note that bacilli are present in the earliest stages of the disease, but in the latest, when brood has become rotten and coffee-coloured or has dried up to a scale, then turn to spores. These represent the seeds of the evil, and retain the power of germinating into bacilli when in contact with a suitable nourishing medium at a proper temperature, even after the lapse of long periods.

They are endowed with wonderful vitality. Freezing and boiling, carbolic acid, phenol, thymol, salicylic acid, naphthol beta, perchloride of mercury, as well as creolin, lysol, eucalyptus, and naphthaline, which evaporate at the ordinary temperature of the hive, prevent the growth of the bacilli, but have no effect on the spores. From this it will be seen how great is the difficulty in curing foul brood, unless the disease is attacked in its earliest conditions.

When stocks are found weak, working languidly, very slightly profitable, and returning little, foul brood may be suspected. If it is present, an examination of the combs will show some cells (many or few) with dying or dead larvae in them; others with their covers sunken or perforated, while the cells of healthy brood are usually compact, and the grubs are plump and of a pearly whiteness. When healthy the young larvae are curled up in crescent shape at the base of the cells. On the other hand, if diseased, they will be found extended horizontally in the cell, presenting a flabby appearance, and of a pale straw colour. As they begin to decompose, the colour changes to brown. They then dry up till all that remains of

them is a brown scale adhering to the side of the cell. Should the large larvae survive until capping takes place, a few of the cell-covers will be found here and there slightly indented and darker in colour than those of healthy brood. The capped cells will be observed in irregular patches and mostly perforated. On removing the capping, the contents will be seen to consist of a putrid, sticky, elastic, coffee-coloured mass, formed of rotting larvae. The bees do not seem to have the power to clean out the foul cells, and so they remain, spreading infection within the hive, until the stock becomes too weak to defend its stores, when some neighboring colony probably robs it, and in doing so carries away the seeds of disease and death, which are thus spread, until all the hives of a neighbourhood may be fatally affected.

Hives in which foul brood exists give forth a sickly and unpleasant smell, and when the disease is of a malignant type and in a very advanced stage, the foul odour may be frequently detected even at some distance from the entrance.

It should be noted that chilled brood must not be mistaken, as it very frequently is, for foul brood. In the former the dead larvae turn first grey, and afterwards become nearly black (never brown, as with foul brood). The larvae, dead from cold, are also generally removed by the bees, but they seldom attempt to carry out those which have died from disease, unless disinfectants to arrest decomposition are used. Adults as well as immature bees suffer from the pest, but these leave the hive to die.

Experience has plainly shown that with foul brood—as in all epidemic diseases—the weak, sickly, and badly nourished are attacked, and become centres of infection to others. So it often happens that as colonies become weak, bees from healthy hives rob them of their honey, and thus carry off the germs of the disease along with their ill-gotten gains.

Another very important point is that the bee-keeper may himself be the means of spreading the pest by indiscriminately handling first diseased and then healthy hives, without taking proper precautions to disinfect himself and his appliances. Combs which have contained foul brood retain the spores. The queen lays eggs in the cells and the workers deposit their honey and pollen in them. Both honey and pollen in this way become vehicles for the transport of the disease to the larvae in the process of feeding by the nurse bees. Under no consideration should infected hives or combs be

knowingly exposed to the visits of bees. Carelessness in this respect may work immense mischief to neighboring stocks and apiaries.

In endeavouring to get rid of foul brood, efforts must be made to raise to a high standard the lowered vitality of the bees, which first enabled germs of the disease to get a footing. This will be effected by keeping only strong stocks, with young and prolific queens, and good wholesome food, combined with cleanliness and proper ventilation.

Foul brood is so extremely contagious that it is advisable at all times to adopt preventative measures against infection. Naphthaline in balls is generally used for this purpose; two of these, split in half, being the proper dose. The pieces are placed on the floorboard of the hive in the corner farthest from the entrance. The temperature of the hive causes the naphthaline to evaporate, and it must be, therefore, renewed as required. All syrup used for feeding should also be medicated with naphthol beta. When the bee-keeper has been in contact with diseased stock, clothes, appliances, and hands must be washed with carbolic soap, and other articles disinfected by spraying with a solution of 1 oz. Calvert's No. 5 carbolic acid in 12 oz. of water.

It was formerly thought that honey was the only source of infection, so that, if bees were starved until they had got rid of the honey carried by them from the diseased hive, a cure would be effected. It is now known that the starvation method, good as far as it goes, has always failed from the fact of its not being supplemented by disinfection of hives and appliances.

When the disease is discovered in a weak colony, the destruction of bees, combs, frames, and quilts, together with a thorough disinfection of the hive, is by far the best course to pursue. The spores are thus annihilated, and the source of infection removed.

If, on the contrary, the colony be still strong, the bees may be preserved by making an artificial swarm of them. They should then be placed in a straw skep and fed on syrup to which three grains of naphthol beta have been added to every pound of sugar used, the naphthol beta being dissolved in alcohol and added to the syrup while still warm.

The infected frames, combs, and quilts should then be burned and the hive disinfected by being either steamed, or scrubbed with boiling water and soap, and then painted over with a solution of carbolic acid (one part of Calvert's No. 5 carbolic

acid to two parts of water). When the smell of the disinfectant has disappeared, the hive will be ready for use. The bees must be confined to the skep for forty-eight hours, by which time all honey they may have taken with them will have been consumed, and such of the bees as are diseased will have died off. Those remaining should then be shaken from the skep into a clean frame-hive furnished with six frames, fitted with full sheets of comb-foundation, and must be fed with medicated syrup for a few days longer. The skep used as their temporary home should be burnt. In order to avoid chance of robbing, all such work as is here described should be done in the evening, when the bees have ceased flying for the day.

It may be added that, in attempting remedial measures of the nature described, it would be desirable, wherever such help can be procured, to seek the advice of a competent expert.

4, Whitehall-place, London, S. W.,
July, 1896.

Copies of this leaflet are to be obtained free of charge and post free on application to the Secretary Board of Agriculture & Whitehall-place, London, S. W. Letters of application so addressed need not be stamped.

U. S. Bee-Keepers Constitution.

—A. B. MASON.

Station B, Toledo, O., Sept 9, 1893.

Editor Canadian Bee Journal:

DEAR SIR:—The following, or something similar will appear in the next issue of the bee journals, and I send you this, hoping it may be in time for the September issue of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. The following constitutions are published in the bee-journals, so as to give all an opportunity to make any suggestions they may see fit before the convention meets, and just to get rid of your importunities, (so not just that, for I guess your way is the best after all,) I have given it a few touches and sent it to you.

To hasten and perfect matters, let each one who wishes to make any suggestions write them out in full, wording them just as they would like to have them, and send them directly to me so as to have them reach me by Oct. 3rd, and I will see that what is sent me is laid before the convention at Lincoln.

You know I am in favor of calling the organization the "North American Bee-keepers' Union," and don't you let a single one who writes to me criticize that name; just criticize the constitution and let me alone. Direct all letters to Station B, Toledo, Ohio.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

This organization shall be known as the United States Bee-keepers' Association.

ARTICLE II.—OBJECT.

Its object shall be to promote and protect the interests of its members, and to promote the general interests of the pursuit of bee culture.

ARTICLE III.—MEMBERSHIP.

Any person may become a member upon payment of one dollar annually to the Secretary or General Manager, except as provided in Section 5 of Article VI of this constitution, or an Honorary member by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting.

ARTICLE IV.—OFFICERS.

The officers of this Association shall be a President, Vice-president, a Secretary and a Board of Directors, which shall consist of a General Manager and six directors, whose term of office shall be for one year; or until their successors are elected and qualified; and the Director, aside from the General Manager, receiving the largest number of votes shall be chairman of the Board of Directors. Those who are now officers of the National Bee-keepers' Union shall constitute the Board of Directors of the Association until their successors are elected and qualified.

ARTICLE V.—ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Sec. 1.—The President, Vice-president and Secretary shall be elected by ballot by a majority of the members present at each annual meeting of the Association, and shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Sec. 2.—The General Manager and the Board of Directors shall be elected by ballot during the month of December of each year by a majority of the members voting; blank ballots for this purpose, with a full list of the membership, shall be mailed to each member by the General Manager; and said ballots shall be returned to a committee of two members who shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, whose names and postoffice address shall be sent to the General Manager, by said Executive Committee on or before the 15th of the November preceding the election. Said committee of two shall count the ballots and certify the result to the General Manager during the first week in January.

ARTICLE VI.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

Sec. 1.—*President.* It will be the duty of the President to preside at the annual meeting of the Association; to deliver an address at the next annual meeting after being elected, on some subject of interest to bee-keepers, and to perform such other duties as may devolve upon the presiding officer.

Sec. 2.—*Vice-president.* In the absence of the President, the Vice-president shall perform the duties of President.

Sec. 3.—*Secretary.* It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a record of the proceedings of the annual meeting; to receive membership fees; to furnish the General Manager with the names and postoffice address of those who become members at the annual meeting; to pay the Treasurer of the Association all money left in his hands after paying the expenses of the annual meeting; and to perform such other duties as may be required of him by the Association, and he shall receive such sum for his services as may be granted by the Board of Directors.

Sec. 4.—*General Manager.* The General Manager shall be Secretary of the Board of Directors, and shall keep a list of names of members with their postoffice address; receive membership fees, and be Treasurer of the Association. He shall give a bond in such amount, and with such conditions, as may be required and approved by the Board of Directors, for the faithful performance of his duties, and perform such other duties as may be required of him by the Board of Directors, or by this constitution.

Sec. 5.—At the time of sending the ballots to the members for the annual election of the Board of Directors, he shall also send to each member a statement of the financial condition of the Association, and a report of the work done by the said Board of Directors.

Sec. 6.—The Board of Directors shall pay the General Manager such sum for his services as said Board may deem proper, but not to exceed twenty per cent. of the receipts of the Association. Said Board shall meet at such time and place as it may decide upon.

Sec. 7.—*Board of Directors.* The Board of Directors shall determine what course shall be taken by the Association upon any matter presented to it for consideration, that does not conflict with this constitution; and cause such extra, but equal assessments to be made on each member as may become necessary, giving the reason to each member why such assessment is required; provided that not more than one assessment shall be made in any one fiscal year, and not to an



THE LATE MR. ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.

amount exceeding the annual membership fee, without a majority vote of all the members of the Association.

Sec. 8.—Any member refusing or neglecting to pay said assessment as required by the Board of Directors shall forfeit his membership, and his right to become a member of the Association for one year after said assessment becomes due.

ARTICLE VII.—FUNDS.

The funds of this Association may be for any purpose that the Board of Directors may consider for the interest of the members of the association and in the interest of the pursuit of bee culture.

ARTICLE VIII.—VACANCIES.

Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors may be filled by the Executive Committee; and any vacancy occurring in the Executive Committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX.—MEETINGS.

This Association shall hold annual meetings such time and place as agreed upon by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X.—AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be altered or amended by a majority vote of the members provided notice of the said alteration or amendment has been given at a previous annual meeting.

The Aims of Australian Apiculture.

From the Australia Agriculturist.

The principal aim of the Australian apiculturists should be to produce a first-rate honey-gathering bee, that surpasses all other varieties in this respect. What can be done by selection has already been proved by the increase in the yellow bands but this tends too much in the direction of creating merely fancy breeds, and is purposeless in improving the main object for which bees are kept—their honey production.

The advice I cannot too strongly urge is to aim at the lengthening of the tongue, together with activity, both of which are indicated by a good storage of honey.

If fancy colour or better appearances of the comb and other minor qualities can be combined with it there is no objection but it will be found difficult to achieve a desired qualities at once when selecting; in fact I feel sure it cannot be done. One characteristic must be attended to at the time, in order to attain a striking result; for a selection that aims at too many things at once will never produce a decisive result in any particular direction. A famous judge of pigeons says: "The excellence of the Almond Tumbler lies in the plumage, carriage, head, beak and eyes, but it is too presumptive to try for all these points from the beginning. There are some young fanciers who are over covetous, who go for all the above properties at once; they have their reward by getting nothing." The principle of aiming at one point of excellence must be steadily kept in view in preference to anything else, and the fancy colour mania ought to be sunk in favor of the practical aim of obtaining a more vigorous strain, and an extremely prolific honey gatherer.

The general conditions for the welfare of bees seem to me to be extraordinarily favorable in Australia, and consequently no difficulties should be met with in producing a vigorous race of bees which are excellent honey gatherers but I am also of the opinion that external influences are sufficiently strong to produce modifications in the character and the physique of the bee. The constant introduction of new blood has, however, prevented so far the indication of any special modification making itself felt. One might almost say that in the short space of time since bee-keeping has been earnestly attended to in Australia, the constantly imported foreign blood, and the

introduction into almost every bee establishment has prevented the bee from becoming thoroughly acclimatised. We are as yet unable to say what would be the effect of Australian climate, the extraordinary food supply, and other conditions of life upon a strain left entirely uncrossed. This subject appears to me to claim attention.

By breeding from a vigorous strain, which would also be good honey gatherers, the influence of climatic and other conditions could be tested. It is not a matter of great difficulty if systematically taken in hand, if sufficient patience is exercised. Still, it may take years of constant attention to achieve any definite result, since the manifold influences, whether produced externally or through inherited tendencies, are as yet not thoroughly understood.

In Darwin's great work, "The Variation of Plants and Animals under Domestication," vol. ii, p. 188, the following is found: "As the time to make the change has not often been recorded, it may be worth mentioning that it took Mr. Wickling thirteen years to put a clean white head on an almond tumbler's body. "A triumph," says another fancier, "of which we must be justly proud." This achievement in the time of thirteen years of constant special selection, that was under the most perfect command, for the suppression of a few off-coloured feathers in a strain already strongly inclined to vary in the direction of a white head is called a triumph, and I agree justly so, when I consider how slowly nature works as a rule. But the greatest triumph is in the proof that it is possible with perseverance to achieve a certain object, provided that reasonable indications exist that such an object is attainable. It can scarcely be expected that with bees a similar triumph will be achieved within such a limited period; but if selection is directed to a single quality, a great deal probably may be accomplished in a few years.

THE NEED FOR IMPROVING THE STAMINA.

As far as I am acquainted with general opinion of bees in Australia, they appear to lack stamina, and the first thing is to improve them in direction of increasing their vigor. Any further selection ought to be entirely guided by utility, and fancy views dropped for a while. In attending to this selection the wedding out of all drones of desirable strains is, in my opinion, fully as important as the superseding of an unstable queen. The more carefully this point is attended to, the more likelihood is there of good results being obtained, and the quicker the effects will become perceptible.

I am further of opinion that probably certain strains will adapt themselves better than others to the surrounding of any particular locality, and when this is noticed such strains should form the stock to breed from. There is little to be feared from close inbreeding regarding bees, because the liberal production of drones will guard against this. If only the undesirable drones are, by destruction, precluded from the chance of attaining coition, sexual selection will assist the breeder. But an indomitable perseverance is required to achieve the aim in view, which is more needed in pursuit of selection among bees, since individual selection can only be practised to a limited extent, namely, with the queens. The Australian Agriculturist.

The Honey Exhibit at the Toronto Industrial Exhibition.

Never before in the recollection of exhibitors has there been as fine an exhibit of honey at the Toronto Industrial Exhibition, but unfortunately for the exhibitors and for the public generally, the place this year occupied is under the east end of the Grand stand, a position in a remote corner and away from other exhibits, people expecting to find under this building nothing but lunch counters and dining halls. Again, moving the building each year gives those wishing to see the honey building and intending purchasers no end of trouble. What bee-keepers and the bee-keeping industry requires is a separate building permanently located and the position of that building in a location where it can be readily reached. We have said this building is required by the bee-keeping industry because it must not be forgotten that those exhibiting at Toronto are benefiting bee-keepers generally because they are drawing attention to honey and many purchase honey in city stores, through having seen and perhaps tasted it at the exhibition. The large exhibits are all neatly and tastily put up, some of course going to greater expense than others in providing the finishing touches, but all of them a credit to bee-keepers. Mr. R. H. Smith, St. Thomas, shows a pretty full line and has the sympathy of all, because his wife Mrs. Smith, owing to ill health, is this year unable to be with him at Toronto. Chas. Brown, Drumquin, had a fine exhibit. Messrs. Saunders and Piere have done good work in displaying a product of excellent quality. H. N. Hughes and Bro. Barrie show some very fine honey and owing to lack of room are unable to do themselves

justice. Mr. Wm. Goodyer does not show in as many lines as the rest, but has a nice pile of comb honey and some extracted. Mr. J. B. Hall, Woodstock, is also not showing a full line, in fact it is only justice to say until the last moment, he had no intention of showing and for that reason he necessarily lacked preparation. It was pleasing to see him in his usual place. Many of our best comb honey producers are indebted to him for pointers which he so generously distributes to those who are likely to profit by his long and valuable experience combined with close observation and intelligence. Mr. Geo. Laing, Milton, is on hand as usual and has placed a good exhibit. Although we notice an improvement in taste, we do not know if this is owing to the assistance of his two daughters or comes from long practice. The Judges were Mr. A. E. Hoshal, Beamsville, who acted last year and Mr. A. Pickett, Nassaragaweya, Ex-President, of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association. The judging in honey was done by the score card passed by the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association two years ago and the sooner other exhibition associations follow suit the sooner they will be abreast of the times.

The awards are as follows:

SEC. I.—R H Smith, St. Thomas; Goold, Shapley & Muir Co. L'd, Brantford; H N Hughes & Bro. Barrie.

SEC. II.—Chas Brown, Drumquin; H N Hughes & Bro. R H Smith.

SEC. III.—Goold, Shapley & Muir Co. Chas Brown, Geo Laing, Milton; R N Hughes & Bro.

SEC. IV.—G S M Co, Chas Brown, Wm Goodyear, Woodstock; J B Hall, Woodstock.

SEC. V.—G S & M Co. G E Saunders, Agerton; Chas Brown, J B Hall.

SEC. VI.—Laing, G S & Muir Co, Hughes. S. C. VII.—Hall, Laing, Brown.

SEC. VIII.—Hall, Brown, Hughes, Saunders.

SEC. IX.—Brown, Hughes, Jno Pierie, Drumquin; Laing.

SEC. X.—Hall, G S & M Co, Hughes, Geo Alfred, Ottawa.

SEC. XI.—Jno Pierie, Geo Laing, R H Smith.

SEC. XII.—G S & M Co, Jno Newton, Thamesford; R H Smith.

SEC. XIII.—Newton, G S & M Co, W A Chrysler, Chatham.

SEC. XIV.—G S & M Co, R H Smith.

SEC. XV.—Hall, G S & M Co, Chas Brown.

SEC. XVI.—Smith, Laing, Brown.

SEC. XVII.—G S & M Co, Laing, Brown.

SEC. XVIII.—G S & M Co, Smith, Laing, Hughes.

SEC. XIX.—J B Hall and G S & M Co, equal.

Bee-Keeping.

Mr. Editor and President O. B. K. A.:

When I began to keep bees in the summer of 1887, it was purely with the design and the desire of doing something to fill up spare time as profitable and pleasurable as possible; and I think with Prof. Cook in his manual that it is only as an avocation bee-keeping will generally be followed, i.e., that it is not likely to be the main business of a man's life, but something which calls one aside from too much leisure or business, and as such I can conscientiously commend apiculture to any person who wishes to do something which must improve the ordinary habits of living already formed.

We miss the pens from the pages of the Journal which were wont to advise and instruct us; and in such a worthy object the crowns of respect and esteem already won by the men who have died, as it were in business, can never be either stolen or tainted, and I would not dare to infringe upon the good which has been done, by any irrelevant allusion to education or religion, or other people's business.

I have not discovered anything new to science in the bee. Mr. Cowan's work is most instructive and complete enough in itself to satisfy the curious. He says the bee is strong enough to draw twenty times its own weight. I have weighed 12 dead bees on apothecaries' measure, their weight according to my observation at the time being seven grains. The dead bees twelve in number, covered as nearly as possible one square inch. Now, if the pressure of our atmosphere is 14 lbs. to the square inch the weight resting on each bee is ten weight) 1 lb. 2 oz. The weight of one bee .58 of one grain. There are resting on it 6240 grains, 9210 times its own weight ten measurement. All figures are open for correction. But what a strength is here and how much stronger is the bee than a man?

Science is always true to itself and there may be nothing concealed from her searching eye; and as the work done by such a little creature in the power of association is so tremendous, let us reverence the wisdom of its creation.

I do not say that science has been exhausted or that there is nothing left to learn; but it is enough to carry the information which is necessary just to keep on right from day to day until the proper stage of experience is attained and a

may be called a really expert master of bees. I have not yet attained to that point; and any one who really desires to become eminent in any calling must begin before he stops growing and grow into it and with it.

I think we miss the main benefit from the study of bees, by imitating them too closely in their energetic cupidity. They are it may be said avaricious of honey, just as a man is of money; and do they not like him store up a stupendous deal more than they can possibly use?

Virgil and Shakespeare have both written in their day on the bee, and compared its community to the larger and more important societies of human states and kingdoms; and have we not insensibly adapted the apiaristic ceremonies to the illustration of the industrial, commercial, military and political world.

It is to be much regretted that there should be any strife or jealousy aroused between the sister societies in the United States and our own. We are all trying to attain to perfection in all things—and why should we take any exception to a mere empty name or title being adopted by our neighbors, if they choose to use the term "national" instead of inter-national, let us have also the National Canadian B. K. A. which, with one good monthly journal, circulating from British Columbia to Nova Scotia must make a higher and a brighter goal for our social and emulative impulses than any yet attained. For the men who keep bees, whether they wish it or not, is certainly in sympathetic touch or harmony with the whole world of art, industry and politics—and yea verily religion too. Of course, it requires spiritual discernments to understand this truth and truth must necessarily appeal to the mind ere it can be of use; to those of my readers who do understand I need not quote any standard authors on the "Evidences," or the analogy between the great first cause and results.

All my bees are "Patrons of Industry," and all of course feel at once when anything goes wrong with the head of the hive, but they do work that that head or queen may fulfil her functions in the easiest and most comfortable manner to herself, and if men learned this lesson from the bees we would have much better state of things not only in Canada, but throughout the whole world. Men seem to invent and enjoy so many things not only at variance with health and comfort, but positively destructive to life and enjoyment.

That the United States of America, or whether North America form the mightiest republic the world has ever seen, nobody likes to deny; but it is well to remember

that there is no limit fixed to republican growth, neither to monarchical aggression, and that while the world lasts the two principles must be opposite, and opposing each in the working out of human problems and that absolute peace would destroy them both. So let our friends and our enemies look upon us and study the best interests of man as exhibited under the monarchical system and let us look over at them with the same objective view.

There is a great battle raging just now between silver and gold, as there was a little while ago among ourselves between sugar and honey. I do not think such quarrels are anything but signs of great and alarming degeneracy in the races of the mercantile world, for it seems that the commercial or mercantile world is the whole and the only world to the people. Now this is wrong for it is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone," and the race after money and haste to get rich is the prevailing cant of the day, called the struggle for bread; while the toiling millions of workers in factories, on farms, etc., are simply too busy to be bothered with questions which cannot affect them at the most but temporarily. Righteousness, justice and honor in every state and community cannot be and must not be weighed in the balance with silver and Gold. Hence the heinousness of such an offence as feeding bees sugar to produce honey. I have never seen it done or tasted the stuff sugar honey, but the idea is repulsive and must be always repulsive to the mind of every honest man.

Again, the bee-keeper must be in full and perfect sympathy with human labor, especially manual labor, on which rests we may say as on solid foundation the whole superstructure of society.

This is something worth noting just at the present hour in this locality, say the centre of Prince Edward Co., Ont., the sun causes the mercury to show 90° in the shade, and it has been almost so for the past two weeks each day.

The ground is slippery from drouth, the trees, the shrubs, the grass, the corn, etc., all drying up. The cows running dry, everything seems to go hard against all hope and comfort; but life in the city is not so cool, neither so comfortable, and the dusty, hot streets during the great heat are ever less inspiring to business men than the half green, half yellow fields, where the air at least is pure, and the worm of anxiety about notes etc., cannot flourish.

The commercial traveller now is a bee not always mollified, but with a cheerful buzz, comes and goes through village and town, supplying wants and posting his cus-

tomers, and forming the most useful connecting link between town and country. While the bee-keeper must stay at home and mind his business, yet he generally reads and learns and has the supreme satisfaction that all worthy citizens should have at knowing that his personal enjoyments at home are as pure and as healthful as nature can give, and much more so than the good people generally enjoy in town.

There are many people who cannot use bicycles, so there are many more perhaps who cannot keep bees, so we are glad to supply them with honey; but the riders on bicycles are not so apt to be so wise as bee-keepers, who are not so likely to forget that we are all living on the great wheel of the earth and if satisfied or compelled to sit in our chairs all day to time the earth's motion by our watches in this latitude of 41° north, will discover that we are really travelling round the axis of our planet at the rate of nearly 500 miles per hour. Centripetal force would cast us into a pit. Centrifugal casts us upwards and outwards and the law of progress seems ever onward and upward; and although perhaps we may not know much more about the bee, we may still do more and increase our facilities for producing honey in good marketable shape.

The intrinsic value of a commodity in the economy of society, it seems to me ought to be the principal factor in making the price. Has honey any peculiarly intrinsic worth? Now the Sacred Scriptures speak in conjunction with butter, as butter and honey shall he eat, (i. e. the Nazarite shall eat). That he may learn to hate the evil and choose the good." Of course, this may be interpreted either in a natural or poetic sense, but does it not seem only fair to candid mind, that honey is and always has been intrinsically worth just as much as butter, and is it not a great deal more troublesome to obtain?

I do not speak as actuated by the love of gain; but simply to assist the tendency of the true bearings of the question of value to come to the light. Mr. Pringle, who was so facile a writer gave this much of his attention as the healthfulness of honey in diet must enhance its value commercially.

But writing seldom makes coins chink pleasantly into your pocket and I find the productiveness of the bee-yard much more practical in results than any amount of letters, and it is evident that the price of honey is the most practically important to the O. B. K. A., not how to keep the price up, but to study its production with the least possible expense of time care and outlay.

I cannot help thinking that farming itself has been injured most by the farmers over producing crops which returned so small a profit that the same time and energy applied to improving the land, etc., would in the end have yielded a much better return. But you say, what am I to live on? I must raise and sell my crops and get the money and pay my debts. Well the first debt you owe is to yourself, that you should be as healthy in mind and body as possible, that you should keep so, and that you should raise food enough always for your self and family first, perhaps wool, perhaps flax, perhaps leather, etc., building yourself up in knowledge of all domestic economics so that the market for your varied products could never be really over-stocked and however scarce money might be you would never starve or be in actual want.

Wisdom is justified always of her children, but it is better to be a child of the light, and now my dear Mr. Editor and fellow-bee keepers, I respectfully remain,

ONE OF THE O. B. K. A.

Picton, 15th August, 1893.

Bee-Keepers Conventions.

—DR. A. B. MASON.

Mr. Editor :

My thoughts often revert to the gathering of the N. A. B. K. A., at Toronto last Sept. and though not the largest, to me it was one of the most pleasant gatherings of the Association that I have attended.

It is a real treat to meet and compare notes with such bee-keepers as Messrs. Hall, McEvoy, Gemmell, Pringle, Pettit, Coza, Darling, Bean, Stewart, yourself and many other Canadians who were present, and if I had not had a cordial "shake" with my friends McKnight and Rev. W. F. Clark I should have been disappointed indeed. I was getting among our old friends to meet the ex editor, A. I Root, of Gleanings and Thos. G. Newman of the American Bee Journal; and it was amusing to see how some of you Canadians "put on airs" because Mr. J. T. Calvert, who was Canadian born, was present to help to make the convention pleasant and profitable. I'm afraid they wouldn't have had an opportunity to glory in him if he had not come to the U. S. to complete his education.

Occasionally some one "shin" his cast at these gatherings of bee-keepers, calli-

them profitless, a failure, etc., etc. Such persons evidently tell the truth, in so far as they are concerned, but they have not been deputized to speak for others.

That there are a large number of bee-keepers who enjoy these annual gatherings, is shown by their attendance whenever the meetings are held near enough to them so that they can spare the time, and afford the money outlay that such an attendance necessitates. I recently saw a letter from a well known bee-keeper in which he spoke of these gatherings as being of no benefit, and a waste of time and money. I am not aware that he ever attended any of these meetings, and so could judge of their character only by reports in the bee journals, which generally contain but little that is really new to old and experienced bee-keepers.

The same might be said of our bee journals, and yet our most experienced and reliable bee-keepers among those who are the most anxious to have their weekly or monthly visits.

It is probable that a goodly number will be present at the coming convention at Lincoln, who would not be there were it not for the fact that our honored president, Mr. A. I Root will be there to greet them, and that his son Ernest will also be there to make their personal acquaintance, and then through Gleanings to be in the future really more of a personal friend, and it is much more than probable that scores of those in attendance will be very much gratified to be able to meet face to face the genial editor of the American Bee Journal, and grasp with cordial good will the hand of the editor of the Canadian Bee Journal, and help to make his visit to a foreign country and out in the "wild and woolly west," as pleasant as free from danger as possible. And to meet Dr. Miller, the man who I don't know,"—as much as he will if he lives a few years longer,—is no small treat; and I might go on, and name others who will be there to help make the meeting more enjoyable and profitable, such as C. P. Stant, one of the revisers of Langstroth's standard book; and our "poet laureate," the Hon. Eugene Secor. But we shall miss the familiar faces, and cordial greetings of our honored friends, Prof. Cook, Thos. G. Sherman, G. M. Doolittle, Hon. R. L. Taylor other well-known bee-keepers who are too far away to make it convenient for them to be with us. The long continued severe illness of members of the family of W. Z. Hutchinson, who has so many times been the honored Sec'y, of the N. American, will prevent his being at Lincoln, and we shall miss him.

I am not aware that any one who has attended these annual gatherings thinks it is a waste of time and money, and I don't see why any one need object to them. No one needs to attend them unless he chooses to do so.

I notice what you say in Aug. C. B. J. about the association fixing the place of meeting, and agree with you when you say, "We trust, however, that in future the association will not be pledged for two years in one convention," but I don't agree with you when in the next sentence but one, you say, "let it be understood if it is the wish of the association to decide two years ahead where a convention shall be held, we have no objection." You see the two statements don't just "tally." In one you object, and in the other you have no objection." I am decidedly in favor of letting the executive committee fix both time and place of meeting.

In speaking of Amalgamation you say, "It appears that but little progress has been made." Well, who is to blame? Aren't you one of the committee to whom the N. American gave full power to consummate the Union with the National Bee-Keepers Union, if it saw fit to amalgamate?

Now you needn't turn on me and say "ditto." If you do I'll just tell you I have been doing more about it than I know of you having done, and before the coming meeting at Lincoln you'll find out that the committee are not all dead.

You say again, "As so much depends upon conditions, we have never felt like saying much either for or against the scheme." Well the conditions have so changed "that when the editor of Gleanings and others suggest that the Bee-Keepers Union shall be changed from International to National, Canada and others will raise very strong objections, and you wake up a little to protest, but why don't you as a representative Canuck "pitch in" and "raise" the objections?

I am so short sighted, and have such a high regard for our friends "across the border" that I don't see any reason why amalgamation may not be accomplished so as to be in the interest of bee-keepers in both the U. S. and Canada, and I don't know but I am the only Yankee that is in favor of such an amalgamation. As it now stands the union has Canadians as members and is just as much under obligation to defend them, as it is to defend members living in the U. S.

I have no doubt some action will be taken in the matter at the meeting at Lincoln, and if you Canadians want to "have a hand in the pie," you'd better be on hand.

Why not say to your readers who need a rest and an "outing," and can afford to take it, go the Lincoln meeting and enjoy the generous bounty of the Nebraska bee-keepers, and make the personal acquaintance of the nice people—ladies and gentleman bee-keepers—who will be there, and enjoy the ride across several states, either of which are larger than some of countries in Europe where they have bee-keepers conventions that are attended by hundreds.

I had often wanted to visit Toronto and its wonderful Exposition, and had it not have been for the meeting of the N. American there, I might never have had that pleasure. To be sure all the good one gets by attending these meetings is not received at the meetings, and I expect to take "lots of comfort and pleasure in crossing three states, and parts of two more, in company with yourself and A. I. and E. R. Root and perhaps others; and to be joined by Dr. Miller and G. W. York and others at Chicago, and by Hon. Mr. Sicer and others on the way; and in presenting our Nebraska friends with a small army of wide awake bee-keepers who are out for "business" and fun.

A. B. MASON.

Sta. B. Toledo, O., Aug. 29th, 1896.

[We should certainly like our bee-keeping friends in Canada to go to Lincoln, Neb.

In regard to the decision as to place of convention, I mean do not let the association have power to decide one year and pledge itself to the next. Yes, let every Canadian go to Lincoln who can by all means.—ED.]

The Bee-Keepers' Association of Ontario.

The Bee-Keepers' Association was organized in 1880. Its objects are to promote the interests of bee-keepers in every possible direction, by means of discussions, papers, reports, etc., and it has also accomplished a great deal of good in procuring legislation, both at Ottawa and Toronto, favorable to the bee-keeping interests. In 1890, the Foul Brood Act was passed by the legislature of Ontario, under which Act an inspector of foul broods—Mr. William McEvoy, of Woodburn—was appointed, who has labored ever since most effectually in combating the disease. Under his labors thousands of colonies have been cured of the disease, while in numerous other col-

onies, too far diseased to be cured, have been destroyed. By means of this effort the disease is speedily disappearing from our province. An Act of the legislature has also been secured, preventing the spraying of fruit trees while in full bloom, resulting in a great protection to bee-keepers, without any loss to fruit-growers.

EXHIBITION WORK.

The association has always been active at exhibitions, and delegates are always appointed to attend all the leading shows to look after the interests of bee-keepers. The splendid display made by the association at Colonial Exhibition in 1896 did much for the industry in Canada, while at the World's Columbian Exhibition, in 1893, the association's exhibit was so strong that it secured a larger number of awards and prizes than were given to any other state or province.

The weakness of the association's work, so far, has been in the want of attention given to the apicultural education of the general public. This has, to some extent, been a serious loss to the industry, for where people are not informed they will not take interest; and where they are not interested they will not spend money. But an improvement is now taking place in this respect. Experienced bee-keepers are attending our farmers' institute meetings, and are doing their best to excite a bee-keeping interest among general farmers, and to spread abroad the best information obtainable relating to bee-keeping industry. The result will, no doubt, be a great extension of the industry among the farmers of the province.

The officers of the association for 1896 are: R. F. Holderman, Brantford, president; J. K. Darling, Almonte, and W. J. Brown, Chard, vice-presidents; William Couse, Streetville, secretary; and Matt Emigh, Holbrook, treasurer. Mr. F. J. Gemmill, Stratford, is sub-inspector of foul brood. Prominent members are Col. Pettit, of Belmont; J. B. Hall, of Woodstock; Rev. W. F. Clarke, of Guelph; R. E. Knight, of Owen Sound; and A. E. Sherington, of Walkerton. The late Alvin Pringle, of Selby, was also a prominent member the association.—Farming.

I don't believe in special providence. When a mule kicks a man, and kills him anywhere from eight to twenty feet off, I don't lay it to the Lord. I say myself, "That man got a little too near the mule."

Reports of the Season.....

(Continued.)

1. Swarming about nil here in '95.

2. Bees wintered good in my locality where they were properly fitted up in the fall. The farmers lost very heavy, many lost all. Old bees and scant stores was the cause of their great losses.

3 Bees built up well in spring and began swarming early.

4. White clover began to blossom here on the 22nd of May, the earliest ever known, but the long dry weather and cold nights was much against the clover doing well, so that the crop from clover was only fair to middling. I also noticed that some colonies did not put enough honey in the brood nest so as to keep a quantity of unsealed honey there to feed the larvae well, and the result was a good deal of starved brood all over Ontario. When bees are gathering abundance of honey they always keep the brood nest well supplied with unsealed honey, and the brood is always well fed at such times. The small larvae will be almost floating in food then, and the larger larvae will be very fat and not one cell with dead brood in. When the flow from clover slacked up the bees continued to store in the supers the most of what they gathered then, and then the brood chambers ran out of unsealed honey at a time when it was needed most to feed the large quantity of larvae on hand. I am perhaps the only man living that has taken this line, and I have spoken and written on this for over fifteen years. I have never yet failed to convince any man when I took the combs out of hives and showed him the difference between well fed and poor fed larvae. The bees from some queen's are poorer feeders of larvae than they are from others, and in such cases they should not be bred from but be replaced by ones from colonies that are good feeders. Bee-keepers should buy more queens than they do, and then wait until they see how their stock fits the bill and if they prove good raise more queens from them, and then weed every queen that don't fill the bill.

Basswood made the grandest show in blossoms this year that I ever knew it to but the flow of honey from it was almost a failure.

6. Bees did well on thistle, it was one of the best thistle flows we ever had, and the bees gathered thistle honey right at the time that basswood was in bloom, and enough basswood in many cases to strongly flavor the thistle with basswood has caused some to think that their bees did well on basswood. Thistle honey when stored in snow white combs so as not to have it stained and left with the bees until every sell is sealed, what honey can beat it in flavor?

7. No buckwheat grown in my locality, but I believe it will be good when it is grown this year.

8. Bees swarmed to "beat the band" this year. Broke every known rule, and often wasted a lot of time with such work.

The wild white clover is showing up well in old mother earth, and is now fast getting into its old time shape through the fine summer rains that we have had. I almost feel it in my bones that we will have a big crop of honey in 1897. Bees are going into the fall in the best condition that they have in many years. Things could not have a much brighter outlook. Foundation will be in great demand next year, and so it should, because it is one of the best things ever brought into any apiary. It does not pay to let bees build their own comb, and every person should for his own interest use more foundation than he does.

Wm. McEvoy.

Woodburn, Wentworth Co.

I kept bees for the first time last year. I began with one colony which swarmed once. Both colonies wintered well on the summer stands. They built up well in the spring. The clover flow was good, but very little basswood honey as it rained almost every day during the basswood flow. There are very few thistles and no buckwheat in this vicinity. My bees swarmed more than enough. I have now five colonies and have got about one hundred lbs. of honey and expect as much more from golden rod which will be in about 1st September.

JOHN MACALONEY.

Halifax, N. S., Aug. 22nd, 96.

In answer to your list of questions received a few days ago, I will say that, the swarming in this vicinity was very good, averaging one swarm from each hive. Wintered very badly. I lost 60 per cent. of mine, while others, lost all they had. The cause, in my opinion, was impure honey, as there was no more gathered after the 20th of July, and many bees died with plenty of honey in the hive. In almost all cases, the bees built up quickly. The clover flow this year, has been very abundant. There is no basswood in this part of the country, and thistles and buckwheat are scarce. This year, swarming has been very good, the Italian bees throwing off more swarms than our own. On the whole, the bees have done exceedingly well this season.

E. W. OGDEN.

Sackville, N. B., Aug. 19th, 1896.

In connection with the honey flow report from this vicinity it might be termed about the same as last year. White clover did not yield so well, but there was a fairly good basswood flow, which made up for the deficiency in clover. Bees fairly well attended to, average between 45 and 50 lbs per colony this year. Swarming was very light last year. Bees wintered fairly well in this vicinity last winter. Swarming was rather light this year also; I attribute the cause to cool and windy weather which lasted during the swarming season. The prospects for a buckwheat flow are not very favorable at present although very much needed in order to give the busy bee a chance to store up a good supply for the winter season.

JNO. R. SHAW.

Alexandria, Glengarry Co., Ont. Aug. 20th, 1896.

Yours of the 8th inst. received. In reply I should say, that there were very few swarms in this locality last year, but the bees wintered very well. This spring the bees built up very slow, although there was always lots of brood, but the bees seemed to disappear, and the colony to get no stronger. There was a very fair clover flow this year, and a splendid basswood flow; but the thistle flow did not amount to much. The buckwheat in this locality has just come into full blossom, and the bees are working nicely on it. If this showery weather keeps on, there ought to be lots of buckwheat honey this fall.

The swarms this year were very thick, but were much later than usual. I am

Yours truly,

THOS W. FARMER.

Ancaster, Ont., Aug. 12th, 1896.

In reply to questions of August 8th, I would say:

1. As regards swarming in 1895. Very few swarms.
2. Bees wintered very well with me.
3. Bees built up very fast this spring.
4. Clover flow has been good.
5. Basswood flow midling.
6. Thistle flow; not many thistles in this locality.
7. Prospects for buckwheat good.
8. Swarming has been unusually great.

H. HOLDEN.

Port Dover, Norfolk Co., Ont.

The following are my answers in reply to your printed circular of 8th inst.

1. Had only one small swarm early in August 1895, out of six colonies, but it gathered enough honey from sweet clover to winter all right outside
2. Very well.
3. Very rapidly owing to the early and continued warm weather.
4. Not very good.
5. There is very little basswood about here.
6. Not of much account.
7. Very little buckwheat sown here.
8. The swarming has been excessive. The bees seem to have a mania for swarming.

I might remark that the sweet clover is what we depend on here now. It makes the very best of honey and quite equal to basswood.

J. FERGUSON.

Amhurstbury, Essex Co., Aug. 17, '96.

1. Excessive. Wishing increase I encouraged it.
2. Lost 5 per cent. Balance rather weak. Packed in sawdust four inches on sides, two inches on top.
3. In early spring, they spring-dwindled some and two or three colonies suffered considerably from bee-paralysis, which disease spread until nearly colony was more or less affected, the symptoms lasting from one to two weeks in each colony as a rule, although some lasted much longer. One has been affected all season although now quite strong in bees April 26th to May 18th, but up very rapidly. May 18th to June 3rd, so cold that two queens stopped laying. Much brood chilled. Three or four colonies nearly starved.
4. Apparently very good but bees seem to prefer raspberry, which was in bloom at the same time.
5. The best in years, but weather too cool and wet the greater part of the time.
- 6 and 7. None here but abundance of goldenrod.

8. Fair. On the whole the season not up to the average, the forepart too cold and dull, the later part entirely dry. Have taken about 50lbs. per colony, spring count, and doubled the number of colonies.

Yours truly,

A. E. TRUSSLER.

Trout Creek, Parry Sound Dist.

1. Swarming last year was very limited, about 50 per cent. of the hives gave swarms.

2. Bees wintered fairly well around here.

3. The bees built up well. The willow and soft maple were good, and the fruit bloom and dandelion came next very abundantly, which help the bees considerable.

4. The clover flow has been very light on account of the dry weather and grass-hoppers. Grass-hoppers were so plentiful that they ate the leaves and blossoms, and they have kept it down the whole summer, and next summer will be as bad as the farmers sowed lots of clover this year and it didn't grow. What grew was killed by the sun.

5. The basswood flow was very good.

6. Thistle was of no account, very little of them around here.

7. No buckwheat grown around here to any account.

8. Swarming this year was a failure. A good many that wanted increase prepared their hives beforehand expecting swarms, but it was too dry. For my part out of sixty colonies I only got four swarms, and that was the same all around here except one man. His bees commenced swarming on the 14th of May, and they kept swarming right along. Very little honey.

Yours truly,

A. J. BLAIR.

Wen Sandfield, Glengarry Co., Ont.

If you had known how small my little apiary was, I doubt if you would have asked me for my report for this season; and I want to assure you that I have nothing startling to report in the way of a large honey crop. I only had eighteen colonies come out under 9 feet of snow here, and three of that number queenless, two of which perished out in short order. The third one was a trifle stronger in bees. I gave them a queen and they pulled through, but it has taken them all their time, even with help, to make a strong colony, and were no good for surplus. Therefore, I had only 15 colonies to run for honey, four of which were worked for surplus and eleven for extracted, and the result is as follows:—837 pounds of extracted honey, some more to follow. Average per colony, 76.2-11 pounds, but principally taken

from six hives; 100 pounds comb, well finished, with some not finished. Average, 25 pounds per hive, but principally taken from two hives. The clover yield was very light, owing some to the small acreage in close proximity to the apiary. Basswood yielded exceptionally good, but the bees were greatly hindered from starting by the high winds which prevailed pretty nearly every day while the bloom lasted.

D. W. HEISE.

Bethesda, York Co., Ont.

Replying to your favour of the 8th inst. would say.

1. Swarming in 1895 was very limited.

2. Bees in some instances wintered good, while in others they were all lost.

3. Those that survived the winter, built up quickly.

4. The clover flow has been a failure, owing to the clover having been winter killed.

5. The basswood in some places has been good, while in others a few miles distant reports say nil.

6. We don't cultivate thistles here, as it comes under the Act in respect to noxious weeds.

7. Buckwheat flow is over; what little buckwheat was left from the ravages of the grasshopper, yielded well.

8. Swarming this season was in many cases excessive.

This is an off year with your humble servant and with many others in this section. The sad news of Mr. Pringle's death reached us like a clap of thunder from a clear sky. His good council will be missed at our future conventions.

W. J. BROWN.

Chard, Prescott Co., Ont., Aug. 17th, '96.

Replying to yours of the 8th inst., I will say that swarming was about at an average last year, but owing to the drought of last year the bees stored very little surplus; heavy feeding of sugar syrup became necessary to put them in good shape for wintering. The year Spring opened early, with nice warm weather, so the bees had a good chance to build up and get ready for the white clover, which was very plentiful hereabouts, but owing to the lack of rain during the months of May and June there was very little nectar in it. The bees gathered just enough to carry on brood-rearing, which, owing to the steady warm weather, was carried out at a lively rate, and as a result, swarming was very excessive. Of course, the usual methods of handling the parent hive, so as to prevent

after-swarms, were followed, but did not prove successful in all cases this year. The few second swarms that did issue were hived with the respective first swarms and the old colony broken up and united with other colonies.

During swarming time it frequently happened that two or three swarms united. Well, I was always glad of that. They were hived that way, and two or three section supers given them at once and they worked generally all right without giving any trouble at all. Of course, for a day or two after hiving I kept an "alley queen trap" at the entrance to make sure of their staying. During July we got plenty of rain. Basswood opened on the 8th, about one week earlier than usual. It yielded very plentifully this year; so did thistle. Buckwheat is not very extensively grown in these parts. Our bees work now on golden rod and other fall flowers, which are in great abundance around here.

H. A. SCHULTZ.

Clontarf, Renfrew Co., Ont., Aug. 17, '96.

In answer to yours of the 8th ult., I beg to state.

1st. How swarming was last year (1895)? From fifty old hives, only 12 swarms.

2nd. Bees wintered well. I only lost 3 hives (1896).

3rd. I lost eight boxes during spring.

4th. 5th, 6th and 7th. Eleven hundred pounds from fifty hives spring count.

8th. Fifty-five new swarms.

Please let me have quotations for 500 lbs. comb honey and 500 lbs. extracted. I shall not sell till I hear from you,

Yours truly,

W. J. PARR,

Renfrew, Ont., Sept. 3rd, 1896.

Toronto Exhibition Personals.

Wm. McEvoy, Vice-President North American Bee-Keepers' Association, and foul broad inspector, Mrs. McEvoy and family, visited the Toronto Exhibition, Thursday, Sept. 3rd.

F. A. Gemmel, Stratford, Ex-President Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association, paid the Exhibition a visit the same day.

Wm. Couse, Streetville, Secretary Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association showed his smiling countenance to the exhibitors of honey, Sept. 3rd.

A. Budge, West Brook, made an inspection of the honey department on Sept. 2nd.

He is a grand bee-keeper and is on his way to visit a brother in Brantford.

E. Dickinson, North Glanford, a good bee-keeper, was in attendance at the Exhibition, he shows Barred Plymouth Rocks and has captured several first prizes.

Wm. Nolan Holton, Que., who has 187 colonies of bees called at the Exhibition, Sept. 7th.

Wm. Peck, Auburn, a somewhat extensive bee-keeper is exhibiting fruit at the Toronto Industrial.

A. E. Sherrington, Walkerton, director of the O. B. K. A., exhibited 32 varieties of apples at the Toronto Industrial. He called at the honey building Sept. 7th.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Sparling, visited the Industrial Sept. 7th. Visiting bee-keepers and exhibitors regret that owing to pressing business at home, Mr. Sparling was unable to exhibit honey at the Industrial.

Mr. David Anderson, Mansfield, secured a little over 100 lbs. per colony.

Mr. Wm. Murdeck, Palmerston, has had 100 lbs. per colony.

A. E. Trussler, Trent Creek, Parry Sound District, who visited the Toronto Exhibition is doing well with bees, he has a splendid locality for bees.

Questions.

Not knowing whether you make a business of answering questions in the columns of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL or not, but if you do you will greatly oblige me by answering the following questions:—

1.—How to prevent swarming in buck wheat season?

2.—How to induce bees to work in the sections instead of swarming?

3.—Do you think bees will work in the sections as readily with basswood separators in as they will without any separators?

4.—How would perforated zinc separators with mespas large enough to let the bees go through work.

[Will C. W. Post and others please answer.—Ed.]

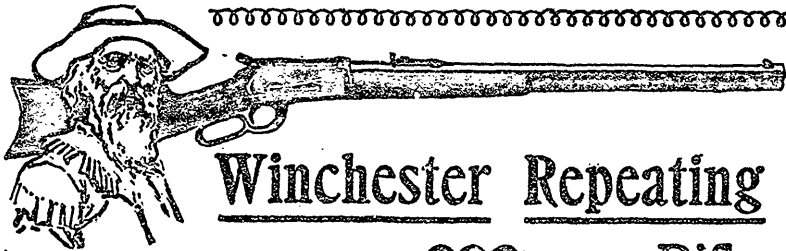
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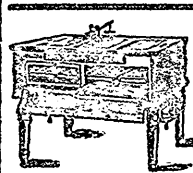
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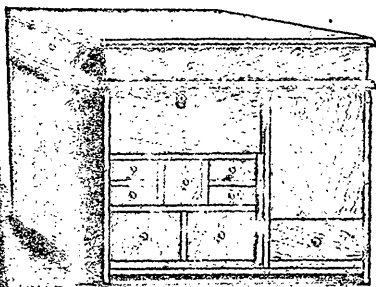
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