

# The Canadian Bee Journal

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## NOTES AND COMMENTS

By J. L. BYER.

### The Fruit, Flower and Honey Show.

It is gratifying to note that this year the Fruit, Flower and Honey Show was not a financial failure, as was the case the two preceding years. Some members, at the Association convention, were of the opinion that in case the show again turned out unsatisfactory the government would discontinue it as an annual event. While we will all agree that it is much more satisfactory to all concerned to have the balance on the right side of the ledger, yet if the show continued to have a modest deficit for a few years, there is very much doubt the wisdom of discontinuing it for that reason. A great deal of public money is annually spent in educating the masses and furthering the interests of different industries. The most ardent partisan will have to admit that in both our Federal and Provincial Governments a vast amount of money is spent on questionable enterprises. For reasons manifest to all, we will consider the matter, the various products on exhibition at the show are of such a nature that it is hardly practicable to advertise their value as food products, as is possible in the case of the various breakfast

foods, glucose mixtures, etc., advertisements of which confront the public in any newspaper they happen to pick up.

Fruit, vegetables and honey are Nature's products, direct, without any manufacturing on the part of man, and all three are accorded a first place in the list of healthy food products by all writers of repute. Where, then, does the harm come in if the Government choose to spend a few thousand dollars a year in demonstrating these facts to the general public, and at the same time furthering the interests of legitimate enterprise? We have not referred to the flower section of the show, but just as strong reasons can be brought in support of this industry as in the others mentioned. Let us all do our part to make the exhibition a success financially, but by all means let the same be continued as an annual event even if there should happen to be a deficit occasionally.

### Size of Winter Entrances.

As most readers of the C. B. J. are aware, I am most decidedly in favor of a fair-sized (four to five square inches) winter entrance. However, after attending the convention this fall and hearing again the success that some good bee-keepers have with small entrances, I decided to contract entrances in one yard smaller than usual and note results. Along in the early part of December we had quite a heavy storm of sleet and rain, followed by severe freezing. On visiting the yard

in question, quite a number of the hives with the very small entrances were completely closed up with ice, and on opening these entrances with a jack-knife bees were found in most instances to be quite uneasy, a considerable number flying out, although the weather was quite cold. Anyhow, whether from force of habit, or call it what you will, I at once proceeded to enlarge those entrances.

Mr. Miller of London, if I remember correctly, admitted that he found it necessary to clean out entrances occasionally, when they were closely contracted, and I have no doubt but that he succeeds splendidly in outdoor wintering. Nevertheless, I cannot help but think that bee-keepers will err on the safe side by giving quite generous entrances rather than to contract to as small a space as recommended by some.

#### Buckwheat as a Honey-yielder.

Only recently Mr. Arthur Laing appealed to some leading bee-keepers for information relative to the honey-yielding qualities of buckwheat. As far as I have noticed, up to date, he has not received much information, at least through the columns of the apicultural press. In common with friend Laing, the writer, too, has been doing a lot of thinking about buckwheat; particularly so lately, as in the past two seasons considerable has been grown in our locality. While I have known for some time that buckwheat is a much surer and heavier yielder along the shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario, than in the interior, yet I had no idea that different varieties of soils would affect the yield, as appears to be the case.

In our locality the soil varies from a heavy to light clay loam, one yard being close to a large tract of sandy loam in addition, at one side. All our soil

is practically free from limestone. In Victoria county, to the north of us and further inland, much the same quality of soil prevails as with us, with this difference, that they have a plentiful supply of limestone both in subsoil and in the form of gravel mixed with the clay loam. One year with another, with the same acreage, buckwheat in Victoria county will yield 1,000 pounds of honey to every 100 pounds here in York county.

Whether the limestone is the factor that causes the difference or not is of course only a conjecture on my part, but can any one else give a more plausible explanation? However, we are very thankful to have buckwheat grown near us, even if it don't yield like it does in some other localities. This year I feel safe in saying that my 250 colonies went into winter quarters with fully 10,000 pounds of buckwheat honey in brood nest; in fact, I have been wondering if I have not overdone the matter a little. But as I just read a few weeks ago how so good a bee-keeper as Mr. Townsend of Michigan had the supers taken off all hives during first ten days of the buckwheat flow, allowing the bees to thoroughly pack the brood-nest with honey I am consoling myself that things will turn out O.K., as that is the very thing I happened to do the past season.

Only last week (Dec. 15th), while at the Cashel yard, I lifted up very quietly the sawdust packing and quilts on about 20 hives. In every case clusters were half-way down those deep frames, and in most cases occupying all the spaces in the 10-frame hives. On top all that could be seen was sealed combs of honey, and my cause of alarm was that probably queens were unduly restricted for breeding during latter part of August and first half of September. Well, I am not going to lose any sleep over the matter and

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#### Those Corner Entrances.

Since penning those notes for December C. B. J. re Mr. Latham's claims to results of having hive entrances at one side of hive, I have received a private letter from Mr. Whiteside of Little Britain, and among other things, in telling of preparing one yard for winter, Mr. Whiteside says that he guessed if Latham saw his hives he would say that "the bees would all die sure." This reminded me of something I was familiar with but had for the moment forgotten—that Mr. Whiteside's hundreds of colonies are all prepared for winter in just the way that Mr. Latham pronounces woe upon, viz., with entrances contracted to one corner of the hive. As I can unhesitatingly testify to having seen some of the best-wintered bees in Mr. Whiteside's yards that it has ever been my privilege to look upon, it certainly would be interesting to have Mr. Latham step in some May day and be confronted with practice versus theory and listen to explanations.

#### Prices of Honey.

Not being present on the first day of the convention, the president's address and discussion thereon was read with much interest by your humble servant in the columns of the C. B. J. Am inclined to agree with friend Holtermann that we can hardly expect to hold prices in a good year at the figure they are now. Nevertheless, I think all things considered, that bee-keepers now have a splendid opportunity of keeping prices above what they have been in times past. Had intended giving my reasons for so thinking, but as I have already taken up too much space, will probably refer to the matter later. In conclusion, allow me to express a word of appreciation of work done by our Honey Exchange Com-

mittee. In our opinion, quite a number of bee-keepers have much to thank for this committee's work this season, and as one at least indirectly interested, I wish to pledge my support, both in word and deed, to a greater extent than has been the case in past years.

Markham, Ont.

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#### CLEANING UP WET STORE-COMBS

I have read all the notes on the subject of cleaning up wet combs after extracting for years in both your papers. It has again been dealt with pretty freely of late, but I really did not think that bee-keepers found any difficulty over the matter, or I should have given you my own plan before now, as I got over this trouble the first year I had a hive of my own. My method is as follows: I first turn back the corner of the quilt, or leave the feed-hole open (the corner plan is best). I then put the frame of comb on the top of the quilt, bottom bar uppermost. By placing the comb so, the bees are placed at a great disadvantage, because the cells are slanting down instead of up, and therefore they cannot store honey in them without first making structural alterations, a work which bees are not inclined to take in hand in the late Autumn. I have never known this plan to fail in securing the desired object. The manner in which I discovered this fact was by laying some broken comb containing honey flat down alongside some combed sections; the result was that the sections were partly filled with the honey from the broken pieces of comb, while the latter were not only cleaned up, but torn to pieces! I then, with the object of getting partly filled combs cleaned up, experimented, and found that if wet combs are turned upside down, as stated above, the bees will clean them out, and yet not gnaw them away, unless they are hard pressed for room. Shallow frames with either broad shoulders or "W.B.C." ends can easily be balanced bottom upwards for the purpose of being cleaned up.—H. Potter, in British Bee Journal.

## Annual Convention

Ontario  
Bee-keepers  
Association

Hon. Nelson Monteith, Minister of Agriculture for the Province of Ontario:

"Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I regret very much that my time has been so occupied that I have been unable to be at your session; however, I am here, and I am glad to meet the men who are forwarding the bee industry so well in this province of Ontario. Our information to some extent may be misleading, but I learn that the past year has not been altogether a banner year in the way of honey production. However, there are certain climatic conditions that sometimes affect results to an extent, and our labor is not always at fault. I am interested in being among you, not only on account of the good-fellowship I have met at the hands of the bee-men, but to gather from you what you believe can be done in the way of legislation to advance the bee industry of Ontario. Last year we attempted some slight modifications of the legislation bearing upon your industry, and I believe the coming session may see some other changes you may see fit to urge upon the government, and can show that your conclusions are satisfactory.

"I shall only be too ready and willing to further your well-thought-out desires in the matter of legislation bearing upon this great industry. I think it is unnecessary for me to speak at any great length as to what in my mind should be done in the honey interests of Ontario. I tried to impress upon you last year that I thought the bee-men of this country were not altogether aggressive enough in the way

of putting their products in the hands of the people. I still believe what I said at that time was well-founded. The value of honey as a food is little appreciated, and I believe there is a good deal of missionary work required on your part to put honey in its proper place in the bill-of-fare of the people of Ontario. Not only that, but in the way of marketing your goods, in presenting your productions in the most attractive way.

"Again, bee-keeping is a business not wholly confined to those who reside in the country, and you recognize the difficulty under which those who attempt it in crowded labor centres. There have been certain happenings in our courts during the last year that add responsibilities that we cannot overlook in taking care of bees.

"The matter of inspection is something that has been changed somewhat. The Department assumed direct control of that, and I am not prepared to say whether it has been an advantage or not. It is largely for you to say. I think, however, that during the past year or two the complaints in this respect have been fairly met. We made every effort, as far as the Department was concerned, to try and meet the demands that were put forward. I think it is only fair to you to recognize that there is one season of the year in which the necessity for the attendance of the Inspector is of the greatest importance, and that season is somewhat limited in its duration, and I believe the work might be furthered by special effort to meet cases that arise during that season of the year. Whether that might best be done through an increased number of inspectors or some other method I am not exactly clear. I think possibly some suggestions you may give from this meeting may strengthen our opinion in that regard. There is a large

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territory to cover, and for that reason it requires considerable effort. I am glad to be with you and to note that your Association is such a live organization. I hear at a distance sometimes of your doings. You have some of the pugilistic qualities that endear the Anglo-Saxon to humanity the world over. You do not always 'agree to agree'; sometimes our best ideas are brought to the surface in that way. I wish continued success to the Association, and trust another year Nature will be more kind to us than it has been in the past." (Applause.)

The Chairman—You have shown your appreciation in your hearty reception of the Minister of Agriculture, and we are glad to have him here. We appreciate the efforts of the Department in helping the bee industry. Some of us have had occasion to meet with the Minister and Deputy Minister, and I feel assured that our interests are theirs, and they are going to help us. I met some one the other day who said that the bee-keepers were the only class of people that could steal honestly, and it struck me that this is quite true. Honey is a secretion that if not collected will be wasted, and every year there is a great wealth wasted in the country where bees might be kept. When I moved into the Claude district the first year I got somewhere about 20,000 pounds of honey. I do not know that any of that would have been gathered if it had not been that I put bees there, and that is only an example of many places in the province, so that the Department of Agriculture, by encouraging the bee industry, will help a wealth-producing element of this country. They talk about digging mines and getting minerals out of the earth; in our business we do not have to dig at all—it is right there on the surface for us.

The foul brood question is a burning

question. That scourge alone has been a loss to me of about \$2,000 for the last two or three years. I got foul brood when I had 300 colonies of bees, and I had to reduce them to 150, and I have had just as much work with the 150 colonies; it has taken me about three years to get them back to 300. I can mention 20 apiaries where foul brood exists within 20 miles of where I keep my bees. The matter of more inspectors will always have my hearty support. I am sure the Minister would like to hear from any of the bee-keepers here a few remarks on the questions he has talked of in his address.

Mr. McEvoy—The President said he lost \$2,000. I could have saved him that money. Mr. Hall of Woodstock had foul brood in his apiary, and I saved him from great loss, and I put it out of his apiary, and I could have done the same for the president.

Hon. Mr. Monteith—Do you think there should be more inspectors than one?

Mr. McEvoy—Yes, give me permission to select proper men, and make me responsible for them, and I will secure 50 or 100. I am not looking for a job. One inspector does in Michigan. I was appointed inspector 16 years ago in this province, and it was reeking with foul brood in the 34 counties and 11 cities, now it is pretty nearly wiped out.

The Chairman—I know foul brood when I see it, and I know how to cure it. I considered there was more pressing work for him to do, and I am not very selfish; that is the reason I did not send for Mr. McEvoy. I have reported several cases I heard of in our neighborhood this year.

Mr. McEvoy—Did you ever write to me?

The Chairman—Yes, I wrote, and you know all about it. I did not ask you to come because I knew you were or-

dered by the President.

Mr. Evans—I am very glad to hear the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and to notice the frame of mind in which he comes to us. He says he comes to learn, and I would like to say to him I know of no place in the world where he would be more likely to learn something than here. I think it would be a good thing if more of the honorable members would go out and try to learn something from people who are capable of teaching them, and I am sure that if the hon. gentleman stays with us for some time and listens to the advice and information that some of the bee-keepers are capable of imparting he will go away wiser than when he came. He complains that the bee-keepers are not sufficiently aggressive. What we lack in that respect is made up by our bees. He would find them aggressive enough if he came to some of our apiaries in the summer-time. The bee-keeping industry is one of very great importance. It is not merely the gathering of honey and making of money for the bee-keepers; it is important for the fruit-grower, the horticulturalist and the farmer. It is of enormous importance in fertilization and helps to bring into this country millions of dollars every year. We have in Ontario the best fruit-growing country on the face of the earth. We grow the best apples and pears and plums. I trust the government will in future help us along more than they have in the past. The amount we have received has not been large, and we have not been able to accomplish very much with it.

There is no question but that foul brood is a serious matter, and I think there is lots of room for inspectors, and I think this province could keep three or four busy, and there would not be as much expense as at present. I am quite satisfied Mr. McEvoy has

done good work in the past and has inaugurated the best system of curing foul brood on the face of the earth. They are coming to his system in all countries. We want men who can get over the province, and I think it would be more economical to have four or five inspectors. I think if the Hon. Minister will take suggestions from this Association he will not make many mistakes. If the Association advises three or four inspectors he will be justified in following their advice. I take issue with any government telling people what they should do under all conditions, because I think the people know best themselves.

Mr. Holmes—I regret that there has been one statement made here that "the bee-keepers could steal honestly," and I hope the members present did not take it seriously. I think this Association has been highly favored on this occasion by having the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture for this province present with us. I think it is most gratifying that he comes to us with such words of encouragement. This organization is trying to make life sweeter, and he tells us that we have the co-operation of his department, and he tells us not to be backward, but to formulate our wishes and when we approach his Department we will find the gates ajar and we are welcome to walk in. I think this is an inspiration to this Association, and we as an Association ought to show him that we appreciate the efforts he is making in our behalf and we are thankful to know that our struggles to make life sweeter have the co-operation of the Province of Ontario and the Dominion of Canada (Applause.)

Mr. Holtermann—There was a point the Minister brought up in connection with the marketing of honey, and I have a resolution drafted that I hope

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the Minister will approve of. The dairymen have special facilities for organizing joint stock companies for the sale of their products, and the fruit men have the same special privileges. Now this resolution is addressed to the Hon. Mr. Hanna, who, I believe, has charge of this Department, and it asks that the bee-keepers should have the same facilities for organizing at nominal fees as have other companies. If the provincial or district Association, or any body of bee-keepers might join together and legitimately sell their products unitedly and put it on the market they should have the same privileges as the dairymen. I have this resolution drafted, and unless the Minister of Agriculture sees some objection to it I shall be pleased to present it at a later day:

Moved by Mr. Couse, seconded by Mr. Pettit, "That we hear the communication from the Department of Agriculture now." Motion carried. The letter from the Department of Agriculture was then read, which was as follows:

Toronto, Nov. 1st, 1906.

Secretary Ontario Bee-keepers' Association:

Dear Sir,—Under instructions from the Minister, I beg to lay before you for consideration by your executive, and, if thought advisable by your executive, to lay before the members at your next convention, a proposition whereby we think the relationship of this Department with the Association may be materially improved, the usefulness of the Association extended, and the interests of the bee-keepers better served.

We have found that it has been to the mutual advantage of the Department and other Associations to have the relationship strengthened and the work of inspection directed from the Department. You will recall that at

the last session of the Legislature provision was made whereby more than one inspector might be appointed by the Minister and the work of inspection directed from the Department. Owing to the lateness in the season when this Bill became law, and also owing to the fact that your Association had already selected an inspector, it was felt advisable to continue your recommendation, and the work was begun somewhat late in the season.

We understand that the period of best inspection is somewhat short, and that, therefore, it might be advisable to divide the province into six districts as follows:

1. Lennox and Addington, Frontenac and East.
2. Victoria, Peterboro, Northumberland, Durham, Prince Edward, Hastings.
3. York, Peel, Simcoe, Dufferin, Ontario.
4. Wellington, Waterloo, Perth, Huron, Bruce, Grey.
5. Norfolk, Brant, Oxford, Elgin, Kent, Essex, Lambton, Middlesex.
6. Wentworth, Lincoln, Welland, Haldimand.

We think it would be practicable to secure a good man for each one of these districts. In making the selection the Minister would naturally consult with the officers and directors, as he would desire to appoint men who would be well informed and carry on the work with the approval of the Society. We would suggest, however, that the services of Mr. McEvoy be retained, and that he be given section six, providing he would be willing to continue. This section is in the vicinity of his own home, and he would also be available for referring to him any points which might come up in connection with disputes in other districts. While we have in mind the other bee-keepers

(Continued on page 14)

## THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

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Editor, W. J. Craig.

January, 1907.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

The C. B. J. appears this month in its new season's costume of grey homespun. This number also contains eight extra pages.

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The old year is passed and gone forever, but its deeds will meet us in eternity. What will the new year bring? We wish our readers blessing and prosperity.

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As announced in our last issue, the annual convention of Brant and adjoining counties bee-keepers will be held in the City Hall, Brantford, January 29th, 30th and 31st, commencing with the evening session on January 29th. The following will be the programme. Some slight changes may have to be made in order to accommodate the speakers, but this is as we have it now:

Tuesday Evening, January 29th, 7 p.m.—"Hints For Present Use in Wintering Repositories or in Outdoor Wintering."

Wednesday, January 30th, 9 a.m.—"Labor-saving Methods and Appliances." Discussion to be opened by Mr. F. J. Miller, London.

Wednesday, 2 p.m.—"Building Up Colonies for the Honey Flow." Address by Mr. S. D. House, Camillus, N.Y. Question drawer and discussion.

Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.—"Demonstration and Classification of Honeys," by

Mr. R. H. Smith and Committee. Samples for this purpose to be brought by delegates and visitors.

Thursday, January 31st, 9 a. m.—"How Can the Bee-keeping Industry be Improved Through Local Associations and Otherwise?" Address by Mr. P. W. Hodgetts, Secretary Agricultural Associations, Department of Agriculture, Toronto.

Probably the principal attraction will be Mr. S. D. House of Camillus, N.Y., on "The Building up of Colonies for the Honey Flow." Mr. House owns over 600 colonies of bees, has taken many of the leading prizes on comb honey at the New York State Fairs, and his ability as a speaker is shown in his being lecturer for the New York State schools at Syracuse.

The Department of Agriculture has kindly promised to send Mr. Hodgetts, the Secretary of Agricultural Associations to address us on "How the Bee-keeping Industry Can be Improved Through Local Societies." This will be an opportunity to become acquainted with the new Secretary of the O.B.K.A. Mr. Hodgetts' experience with the workings of other associations will enable him to give us some valuable and practical suggestions on the conducting of local societies.

The subject for the evening session of January 30th, will be of interest not only to bee-keepers, but to the retailers and others in the city who handle or use large quantities of honey, and will be largely for their information and instruction. A special invitation will be issued.

We expect to have a large attendance of bee-keepers from the surrounding districts, and a number of leading Ontario bee-keepers have signified their intention of being present. Good hotel accommodations can be secured at reasonable rates. Remember the dates:—January 29th, 30th and 31st.

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The following letter just received from Mr. J. Alpaugh will be interesting to our readers. Friend Alpaugh is evidently having a good time. We are pleased to hear from him and wish him a safe return:

Friend Craig,—I arrived in Los Angeles (the destination of my ticket) all safe and sound. But on my way out I experienced my first mishap in travelling; not far from Omaha, we were run into by another train. Both engines were badly smashed our engineer fatally hurt. We were all in bed at the time and got our heads pretty well bumped up against the end of our berths. I thought if it was shunting they were doing, it was pretty rough. I came by way of Chicago, Omaha, and Salt Lake City. Outside of the mishap we had a very nice time.

I spent the first three weeks taking in all the most interesting sights, making Los Angeles my headquarters. I visited one place where a man keeps over eighty thousand pigeons; and while they all have their liberty, they never leave his property, which only consists of about three acres. He has thousands of small "canned goods" boxes piled up out in the open for them to breed in and lots of wheat always on the ground for them. Nearly all these pigeons can be seen at any time on about one half acre, and I must say it is a sight of a life time. I also visited an ostrich farm where one hundred and fifty birds are kept some of them four hundred pounds in weight and can stand on the ground and pick a leaf off a tree at the height of ten feet, and can trot around with a two hundred pound man on their backs as easily as a horse. Their means of defence is by kicking forward with one foot; they will knock a man ten or twelve feet at one kick and perhaps kill him. Some of these birds are valued as high as five thousand dollars each. I might just say that the pigeon man makes

money by selling the young just before they leave the nest; they are called squabs at this stage, and he sells on an average of eighty dollars worth a day, mostly in Los Angeles. The feed cost him fifty dollars a day, his other expenses are not very high, but it takes twenty-five thousand bushels of grain to feed the pigeons one year.

Things are done on a very large scale in this country. I am now staying at a place just near a vineyard which consists of three thousand and five hundred acres all in one solid field. At another place where I visited they have two thousand acres of celery. The orange groves are a most beautiful sight just now, hanging full of yellow oranges among the waxy green leaves.

I have called on several bee men, and all report a very short crop this last season; honey has gone up in price several cents wholesale, best sage extracted honey bringing seven cents, instead of three and a half or four as in former years. I have seen nothing new in the bee line so far; there is no preparation needed here for winter and one can find apiaries scattered around among the sage brush as if no one owned them. If an eastern person has a few dollars to spend I do not know of a better way to spend it than to take a trip out here and enjoy a few of the many sights of this country.

J. ALPAUGH.

Ontario, Cal., Dec. 24, 1906.

The Central Germany Bee-Keepers Association has a membership of 55,000.

Large, old basswood hives do not yield as much nectar as young trees of the same species; the yield from basswood seems to be generally uncertain.

Absconding swarms will nearly always settle down if they come within the flying circle of another apiary. — Leipzig Bienenzeitung.

## Annual Convention

Continued from Page 11.

for the other sections, it is not necessary to name them in this connection. It is the principles of the work and general lines of division that we submit to you for consideration.

This would necessitate a larger grant than we have at the present time. The Minister is inclined to think that next year a total appropriation of \$1,200 would be sufficient, as the inspectors would not have to travel so far from home, expenses would be lessened, and we should be able to cover a much larger area than has been done under the old plan.

In the next place, we have thought that, in order to carry out this work and keep it in direct touch with the bee-keepers, it might be advisable to have the secretary of the Association located in the Department. We are not anxious in the Department to monopolize any of the work or privileges of the Association, but if you think it would not interfere with the work of your Association in any way, but rather improve its working, to have the secretaryship here, we beg leave to say that that can be arranged. The secretary of the Fruit Growers' Association, Mr. P. W. Hodgetts, is an officer of this Department, and we understand that he would be willing to take the secretaryship of the Bee-keepers' Association also. But that is a matter which we do not wish to force upon you in any way, but submit to you for consideration. You must consider the question with the utmost freedom. Mr. Hodgetts is not seeking it, and we are not unduly urging it. We hope to bring the work of the Association into closer relationship with our other branches of work, more particularly the Farmers' Institutes, and it is just possible that some improvement might be

made to the advantage of the Association and of the Institutes.

Please have this matter considered by your executive, and oblige,

Yours very truly,

C. C. JAMES,

Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

The Chairman—You have heard that communication and we would like to have brief expression of opinion upon it. I do not think it is right for anyone to monopolize too much time.

Mr. Couse—I may say that I think it was at our meeting in Barrie I suggested to Mr. Creelman that the Secretaryship ought to be in the Department. The Honorable Minister knows well that I have spoken to him more than once about the matter and now I am more convinced than ever that the Department can handle this work better than any private individual. The matter would be in their hands when anything was necessary to be done and the Secretary would have a stenographer and could do a great deal more work and do it quickly, and I am sure it would be very much better for the Association.

Mr. McEvoy—In regard to the inspection of apiaries. I would be supposed in case of any dispute, to look over the field. If I am to choose the men for these six places I might be willing to take part but, unless I am going to choose the men, I think the best thing I can do is to drop out.

The chairman—You approve of the sections?

Mr. McEvoy—I approve of the sections provided I choose the men. I would not care to take it unless I did—that is all.

Mr. Chrysler—I have no objection to this proposition. I think, probably, it may be a step in the right direction and a progressive step.

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Mr. Miller—This is a matter that I think is of great importance to our Association. In the past year the Honorable Minister has shown great sympathy with us in our work and he is in a position to do it much more good in the future. I think the proposition laid before us is of untold worth to our Association, and I think it would be for the good of the Association. The fact that, probably, \$1,500 could be had next year to pay these inspectors shows that the Department is giving this matter consideration and that they see the necessity of aiding us as an Association. That should encourage us to leave ourselves open to closer communication with them; to place our work before them and I think we are in safe hands when we allow this to go on as suggested.

Mr. Holmes—The proposition that is contained in that letter and Mr. McEvoy are not so very far apart. The proposition is to give Mr. McEvoy a district and to retain him as a sort of adviser to the others.

Mr. Deadman—I think it would be the very best thing that could be done, at the present time, and I hope Mr. McEvoy will reconsider what he has said about dropping out altogether. It would be as well to have him in case of any dispute. I think we should have more inspectors and, as outlined in the letter, I do not think anything could be better.

Mr. Craig—The time has come when we should cease to pull against each other in this matter. The Department seems to have taken hold in real earnest and they want us to be unanimous, and I think we should be. From what I know of the Province and the conditions I do not think that one man, even with the ability of our good friend Mr. McEvoy can do

the work. At the same time I would be very sorry to see Mr. McEvoy drop out of the work and I hope he will reconsider his decision.

Mr. Whitside—The question is how many inspectors, and I think we ought to have just as many inspectors as we have bee-keepers. In the olden time among the Jews, every man was a law unto himself and it was first rate as long as they followed it. We are coming upon right lines if Mr. McEvoy will just work with us, but I think we should have a Board of Examiners and have these inspectors show that they are properly qualified in regard to their knowledge of the disease, and they should be able to keep the people in good humor and work together harmoniously.

Mr. Holtermann—I feel as Mr. Deadman does. I think it is a very wise suggestion that Mr. McEvoy should be available as referee and I hope that he will be willing to act in that way, and I think, probably, his friends will be able to induce him to act as such.

Mr. Brown—This matter was up before our Board meeting and brought out considerable discussion and it was the impression of some of the directors that the matter should be taken into a little more consideration, but as it is now before the Association and the Minister here, I think it is a very good time to have it discussed. The majority seem to be in favor of having more inspectors. I consider the work was done very well by Mr. McEvoy. In appointing the inspectors I would ask the Association to give way to Mr. McEvoy. I do not think there is any man in the Province of Ontario more capable of knowing who is fit and who is not fit to act as an inspector.

Mr. Evans—I think the proposition

by the Department of Agriculture is a good one and I think Mr. McEvoy will agree with me that in the past this Association has shown its ability to select a first class inspector.

Mr. Bally—It is impossible for one inspector to go over all the country and do justice. There is only four weeks to do it in and he cannot do justice to the bee-keepers, to go in, in April and May, and inspect their hives. I think there are a good many bee-keepers who know what foul brood is.

Mr. Deadman—It is a question of whether we approve of more inspectors, and leave these inspectors to be selected by somebody else.

The Chairman—When the new act came out, that was one of the objections to it, that the Association was not left the right to recommend, but I felt that the Department would not do anything without finding out from the bee-keepers who were eligible to be appointed. I think the act, as it is amended, is all right. I think the Department can order these inspectors to do their work better than any President of this Association ever could.

Mr. Adams—Mr. McEvoy is the father of the cure for foul brood in this country and knows more about it than possibly any other man. He has had a large experience among the bee-keepers of the Province, and I think the suggestion that he should have charge of these assistants, is a good one, and I think if he had charge of them the Department would have fewer mistakes.

The Chairman—The bee-keepers all over appreciate what Mr. McEvoy has done and I am sure they will appreciate any help he may give us, to further this cause.

Mr. Pettit—Is it suggested that the

Association mention who these inspectors should be?

Mr. Couse—No, that is left to the Committee.

Mr. Pettis—We have had trouble over the appointment of inspectors for years. We have spent a great deal of time and discussion about it and there is a question in my mind whether it is wise to bring this back to the association at all.

Mr. Dickenson — This has always been a trouble at our meetings, and when the Government took it out of our hands it was a great relief. It seems to be the same old thing for the past fifteen years and now we have a proposition that the Executive have the choosing of the different inspectors.

Mr. Couse—Only recommending.

Mr. Dickinson—That leaves it in the hands of the Government to appoint these inspectors. They can either appoint these inspectors or reject them.

Mr. Timbers—If the Executive has the recommending of the inspectors, why not take Mr. McEvoy in with the Directors and let him have a say with them, or let us elect him as a Director.

Mr. Grosjean—There has been a great deal said about the matter of inspectors, and I have come to the conclusion that it is a very serious thing to undertake. As far as the eastern part of the Province is concerned I only hear of foul brood. I have had bees for thirty or forty years and never had foul brood. I do not know why we should want three inspectors in the eastern part of Ontario. Mr. McEvoy has not been called there once. There are just as intelligent bee-keepers in the east as in the west. The Government might choose them for political reasons and so far as giving the Executive committee authority I do not see that they

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are capable. I think the inspectors should pass an examination. If I had foul brood I would study up Mr. McEvoy's plan and I would cure, or kill the whole apiary.

The Chairman—Mr. McEvoy has had thousands of foul brood cases to cure and he has had fifteen years to cure them, and I think there is as much foul brood in the province as there ever was. I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture to make a few remarks before we adjourn.

The Hon. Mr. Monteith—I might be treading on dangerous ground if I expressed all I think, but I am rather a cautious man. You must recognize, ladies and gentlemen that, after all is said and done the Department is the responsible head in this whole concern and we desire to give a reasonably free hand and I think you will all recognize the fact that, since the Department has come under my care, we have kept very free from politics and political appointment. (Applause). We recognize that it is organizations such as ours, that must largely make for the success of our department. It is by your co-operation with us that we must hope for the greatest results. We hope that in this matter personal consideration will be set aside and the best men recommended to look after this great industry. Capacity for work should always be one of our great claims in the demonstration of the affairs of this country, and if our standards of ideals are lower than this, when we have a good deal to learn. I speak these words hoping that the little differences that exist among you will be smoothed down. We almost agree, I think, Mr. McEvoy realizes that the bee industry is, to a large extent, in his keeping. He has done good work in the past and I know that Mr. McEvoy and I could work

together for years without having any great quarrel, and he must recognize that his interest and the interests of the bee-keepers in this Province, are one and identical, and I trust that he will work in harmony with you and I know that the department will try and utilize to your advantages the best feeling that is available.

Meeting adjourned.

#### EVENING SESSION.

Chairman—I have much pleasure in calling on Mr. Couse for his paper on "Wintering Repositories."

"Wintering Repositories," by William Couse.

Mr. Chairmen, Ladies and Gentlemen, —I do not feel that I have done this subject justice at all. I expected to have written the paper. My intention was to have taken up repositories. I have seen, starting from the first time I knew anything about bees, and that was in the good old brimstone days, when every boy, in October, could smell brimstone for three miles. Every time bees were taken up at our home every boy in the neighborhood would know it, and he got there as quickly as possible for some of the honey. One particularly successful wintering repository that I recollect from boyhood was a pine log about six feet long with a hole half way up, in the centre, as an entrance. At that time we had three other hives made from pine lumber lined with straw, but that log wintered for many years and never failed. What or where was the difference between the log and the hives? The conclusion that seems to follow is that dampness perhaps is the greatest cause of failure in wintering. I didn't know anything about bee-keeping then, but if you think of that log, there was always ventilation, it stood out right in the open. A few years after this my experience commenced in seeing winter repositories with those that were en-

gaged in the management of movable frame hives. They were the first wintering cellars, they were not what you would call dry cellars, they had water in them.

I remember once seeing Dr. Tom's cellar when it had a great deal of water in it for quite a length of time, but his bees came out well. I would not say it was a damp cellar, water was there for a short time and finally drained off. It was on a hill. I remember another instance, a man who knew very little about bees, bought them late in the season, and in order to winter them he put them in a glass house and he fed them every day. He said if they would not take it any other way, he would throw it over their backs, and he did so and the consequence was he did not have any bees in the spring. In a few years I went to Beeton and the bees there were wintered in sawdust buildings packed from ten to eighteen inches with sawdust all around and double doors, some with a floor in the bottom and some without. Those buildings occasionally got somewhat damp in the bottom, particularly those that had no floor, and if there was any loss of bees in these buildings it was in the bottom row of hives. I moved away from there and went into cellar wintering again. I came to Streetsville, we wintered in a cellar there with average success. A few years later I went into cellar wintering for myself at Meadowville, but we had a good cellar and it was successful. Later we got our place burned there and had no cellar and we used a sawdust house, and the bees wintered fairly well in that sawdust house. From all I have seen and have experienced where the bees are kept dry there are numerous ways of wintering them successfully. I remember going out to a farm on the centre road from Streetsville, a man there had a bee house something like an ash house, and he

had a box hive sitting on a trestle with a frame under it, 22"x18", the box hive was sitting on these frames with no bottom. They were in an open building, 8'x10', and he wintered the bees in that way for many years successfully. It was not the warmth, it was the dryness; I cannot think of any other reason. Since then I have done more or less wintering outside. When the bees were covered with snow to a great depth and kept damp, they did not winter as successfully as when kept up clear and away from dampness, unless they are kept high and dry they are not so successful. I find that the bees that are wintered inside, when you take them out not too early and set them down and cover them up, they are apparently better than those wintered outside. These last two years I noticed particularly bees that wintered in a cellar and were put out carefully were in a better condition when the honey flow came than those that were wintered outside. I am satisfied that where a man has a good cellar, conveniently situated, it is economical to winter inside. Last spring I put out bees at different times, and I found those put out first were not to be compared with those put out later; they seemed to start breeding and afterwards began to dwindle, while those that were put out late continued right through. This last spring, the bees that wintered outside were fine and strong, and those that wintered in the cellar were not so strong. I set some out on the 25th of March, and some the middle of April and some the 23rd of April. Those that were set out latest were in much the better condition. I believe a man who has got a pretty good cellar is well situated; they can winter them in many other ways, but I do not think they can be wintered successfully in a damp repository. (Applause)

The Chairman—We have been

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much interested that I did not need to call anybody to order. I take it that you appreciate the effort Mr. Couse has made. I have pleasure in calling on Mr. Smith to open the discussion.

Mr. Smith—We have had some experience in wintering in various repositories. Beginning back 25 years ago our first repository was simply a blanket, and the bees were packed in chaff. This was in Muskoka where the winters are cold. The bees wintered all right in that way. We tried a cellar, and thought it would save packing but our experience was that they did not winter so well, and at the time we did not know why. Of course, I now know the reason, it was dampness. We moved to Bracebridge and had a special bee-house built and a special cellar, but before the cellar was finished we had to put the bees in, as winter came on. The frost got into the cellar and we lost more bees than we did any other winter. They were dry enough, but the temperature was too low and it was just the same as a refrigerator. A neighbor farmer had bees and he took very little care of them, and left them on a bench at the end of the barn, without any protection, and they wintered perfectly, although the temperature went down to 45 degrees below zero. The extreme cold did not last more than a few days, and another reason why they wintered so well was because they were on old combs. We built another cellar, a big stone cellar the full size of the house; we put the bees into it, trusting that the water would not get into it; we did not have a drain. There came a thaw in January and we had to bale the water out to keep the bees from drowning. They never wintered better. It was a mild winter, and I think the water purified the air. A neighbor on the next street had his bees in the cellar under his kitchen, and the bees came out in

perfect condition. Mr. Shultz, of Tilbury, put his bees in a cellar and towards spring the water got into it and when he looked to see if his bees were all right he found the hives floating around on the water, but they came out perfectly, there was room enough on the combs for the bees to crawl out of the reach of the water. I have noticed when bees are in a cellar that the bees on the lower rows will never come out as well as those above, if the temperature is low. If the temperature is high. The average temperature of 45 to 48 we have found to be a very good temperature, and the water running through the cellar is no detriment if the temperature is high enough. I think the reason why bees do not winter so well in hives out in the deep snow is because the entrance gets blocked up and the moisture is retained in the hives. We have found that the cellar is the best method for wintering in this climate, but if the cellar is kept too warm, they will start breeding more or less before you can set them out. If they start in February and you set them out early in March, they do not dwindle for the simple reason that there is young bees coming to take the place of the old ones.

Mr. Holtermann—Three years ago I was attending a Farmers' Institute meeting and had supper with a farmer, and he took me out to his bee-yard and we looked at some stocks of bees that had been wintering in chaff hives. The hives had upper stories on them, and just the ordinary roof. They had no packing in the upper story, and these bees wintered successfully through that very disastrous winter. I attributed it to the fact that they had been kept absolutely dry.

The Chairman—You have heard of the fool's luck.

Mr. Holtermann—I have never had it, I think the first requisite is a dry at-

mosphere. I have no objection to bees brooding in the cellar, if they brood late enough, so that the young bees are hatching when you set them out. They immediately begin to fly, but where they brood earlier they disturb the colony.

A Member—If it is desired to have them brood earlier how would you start them?

Mr. Holtermann—I did not say it was desirable, I said I did not object seriously to it.

Mr. Hershiser, of Buffalo—If it is desirable to have young bees coming out to take the place of the old ones, then I think it would be a good plan to set the bees out late, and then you have a good temperature in which to start them. It has occurred to me that if we were to put water where the bees could get at it, that it might start them to brood. I do not think it is well for the convention to get the idea that water in a cellar will make the cellar dry. You all know a cellar that has water in it is supposed to make the house unsanitary. If the house is kept warm, I do not think dampness in the cellar will do any injury. I would think dryness in the hive is the best thing you can have. The colony should be large enough to store up enough warmth to maintain an even temperature; that is all the good there is in a chaff hive. You know that a large body will give out its heat gradually and not cool off quite as quickly as a small body. A hive with thick walls has the property of giving out the heat gradually. When we had a disastrous winter three years ago, I found a three story hive with bevelled edges had no winter protection at all, the queen excluder had been left off, and yet the colony was alive, nothing but the lid of the hive over the upper story and the queen excluder. The following winter was a very severe one for me, and

the colony of bees that wintered best was in a simplicity hive, and the hive set right flat on the bottom board with a sort of V shaped entrance. When I took the bees out of a snow drift I found the entrance clogged with ice and I had to pick it out with my knife, and when I cut it open the water floated out. It was thoroughly sealed with ice that held the water in there, and that colony of bees was the best I ever remember of having, and I have got the queen yet. They were apparently asleep when I opened them up.

Mr. Byer—I suppose any bee-keeper can go home and say there is no use of having a good cellar and having box hives. However, I do not think any of the gentlemen would winter 300 colonies of their own in the way that has been mentioned here. Wintering outside in such an exposed way is done at the expense of stores. I had a hive that stood six winters; the hive was made of inch lumber with an entrance of one inch by five. There was a check in the timber and I could look in at any time and see the bees. It was a twelve frame hive 13 inches deep. Really strong colonies with abundance of stores will winter almost under any conditions, but they will use about a quarter more supplies than colonies of the same size that are protected with chaff and bagging on top. I have never lost a strong colony yet, except where they starved to death. I see no trouble in wintering good strong colonies, provided you can give them lots of stores.

Mr. Lyons—Do you keep your doors shut?

A.—No.

Mr. Holtermann—The entrance would go half way up to the top of the hive.

A.—I mean the area, I do not mean the vertical entrances.

Mr. McEvoy—giving them plenty. Smith spoke of this.

Mr. Smith—I Of course these leaves from this end of the hive, could get through very slightly.

Mr. McEvoy—I than four or five top. If I was in M would winter out.

Mr. Holtermann whether these yo early or not?

Mr. McEvoy—T Mr. Smith—Hav to see?

Mr. McEvoy—I in a yard without Mr. Holtermann—

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Mr. McEvoy—Mr. Couse spoke of giving them plenty of air, and Mr. Smith spoke of giving them ventilation.

Mr. Smith—I did not explain that. Of course these hives were packed in leaves from this opening at the rear end of the hive, so that the cold air would get through that bagging but very slightly.

Mr. McEvoy—I do not want more than four or five inches of leaves on top. If I was in Mr. Smith's country, I would winter outside.

Mr. Holtermann—Is not it a point whether these young bees get to fly early or not?

Mr. McEvoy—They disturb the hive.

Mr. Smith—Have you examined them to see?

Mr. McEvoy—I could tell any hive in a yard without looking at it.

Mr. Holtermann—How do you tell?

Mr. McEvoy—By the entrance, you would tell by the sound.

Mr. Hershiser—Is it true that bees have got to have water in order to rear broods?

Mr. McEvoy—A. No.

Mr. Holtermann—Some of the German writers advocate giving the bees water in the winter time to keep them quiet.

Mr. Miller—Both Mr. Smith and Mr. McEvoy mentioned that they consider it necessary to give upward ventilation;

for some years I have not preached upward ventilation.

Mr. Holtermann—I have had grave doubts for several years as to whether I was doing right or not. I used to

winter with the covers off and cushion of felt above the quilt, and for

two years I have wintered with the covers on, but raising the hives at the

back. I have them in a good cellar.

Mr. Hershiser—I should say Mr. Holtermann was doing a wise thing, because

he only lost 6 hives out of 300.

Mr. Holtermann—I have wintered with a loss of less than that, but I do not think I have reached perfection.

You should not lose a colony if you would put them up properly, any more than you would lose one sheep out of a flock.

Mr. Brown—I have given up out-door wintering entirely. I believe the cellar is best. I have three rows in the cellar. It is a cellar on a hillside and I think it is a proper place to select. It should never be on a level. I have found that moisture is needed to winter successfully, a certain amount of dampness. I simply take the covers off and leave the honey board on. I do not use any quilts, I simply put in two wires to keep the honey board on so that it won't work off and leave the bottom board outside, and I put them on scantlings and leave an 8-in. space between each of the hives, so as to leave room, and I have a view any time in the winter and can see what each hive is doing and can feed them if they need feeding. I have never lost one hive. I use an 8 frame hive and I never take out an empty frame.

Mr. Pettit—Do you nail your honey boards down tight?

A.—I never like to have them nailed down so that the air won't come through the hives.

Mr. Holtermann—When you set one hive on top, the two hives constitute a bottom board practically. I saw a lot of hives wintered that way in Quebec Province, and the man was very enthusiastic about it.

Mr. Brown—In the spring I simply lift them up, put the bottoms under and set them on the stands, and I have no more to do. I lift them on to the bottom board in the cellar and close up the entrance and leave it closed up after I get them out until they

quiet down.

John F. Grosjean—I have wintered with covers and without covers. Some winters ago I wintered with the covers on and I found there was dampness, and I took the covers off. I winter somewhat in the same way as Mr. Brown. I never put on a cushion. I try to keep my cellar right, never allowing it to go below 45. I set my hives about a foot and a half above the floor. I have never known of brooding in the cellar. I fed one hive last winter and it gave me more honey this summer than any hive I have ever had.

The Chairman—We have had a good discussion on wintering, and I think it is now time to adjourn.

#### Second Day—Morning Session.

The first order of business was the discussion on Apiarian Appliances, the first exhibit being an American smoker brought by one of the members.

Mr. J. F. Miller, of London, Ont., was called on by the President to give his opinion on the different kinds of smokers in use and a smoker required.

Mr. Miller in reply said that he recommended the use of a larger smoker than the one exhibited, and thought that one with an area of 10½ inches would be better. The one he used was a large one, and he used it between his knees, he strongly advised the bee-keeper with anything from 100 colonies up to use a large smoker in preference to a small one.

Mr. McEvoy being called upon by the President to give his opinion as to the size of the smoker said that he too preferred one of a good size, stating that the little smokers were a nuisance. He also said that he had not worn a veil for 30 years and had been trying to train his own son to throw it aside too. With the aid of a smoker he could go through a yard and take 40 or 50 hives in 30 minutes and advised every bee-

keeper to use a good-sized smoker.

Mr. Hershiser, Buffalo—In reply to Mr. McEvoy's remark making his son discard a veil, asked if there was a society for the prevention of cruelty to children.

Mr. Holtermann rising said that he had not brought the smoker to the meeting for the purpose of showing its size or the material of which it was made, but to explain the principle on which the top was put upon the barrel. In private conversation it had been suggested that it would not work, but would clog; he had used that smoker the whole of the present season and had found it worked most effectively, should soot form all one had to do was to take a lead pencil and remove it.

He considered that there was an art in the use of smoke and the smoker. He had been induced by Mr. Jones not to wear a veil and had suffered considerably the first year, and he had to persevere persistently, in spite of many stings, before he could get accustomed to do without one, but on the whole he considered that it depended entirely upon the way in which one breathed, that bees do not like much steam about and it is objectionable to have bees buzzing about one's face, but where it is necessary to disturb the bees it is perhaps advisable not to smoke as heavily.

Mr. Byer said that during a trip he had taken two or three years previously with Mr. McEvoy, he himself had worn a veil while Mr. McEvoy had made use of a smoker alone, and he considered that Mr. McEvoy required a very large smoker, for where he had been stung once or twice, Mr. McEvoy had had 2 or 3 dozen.

Mr. Holtermann asked if it would not be better to smoke too much than not enough.

Mr. Byer said a good bee-keeper ought to know how much to use his

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The President  
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Mr. Miller, descri-

smoker, and described the use of a smoker, its advantages and disadvantages, taking off the cap and showing how the bellows should work, and stating that a large smoker has the advantage of not requiring to be replenished as often as a small one.

Mr. Newton said he believed every good bee-keeper could tell when the bees had had enough smoke by the sound. He said that he strongly advocated the use of a veil, not account of the stings, but he believed that more work could be got through with the veil than without, and that that work would be more carefully done.

Mr. Hershiser said he did not believe in being foolhardy in working with bees, but that he very seldom wore a veil.

The President remarked that some persons could be stung and not feel it.

Mr. Newton declared that he did not like the sensation of bees crawling all over him, nor did he like being stung or hurt, and he advocated the use of the veil. He did not wish to get stung simply for the pleasure of saying he did not wear a veil. He did not believe in using so much smoke either; he considered that there was too much smoke used generally and that occasionally the flavor of smoke entered into the honey and made it unfit for the market.

He said that bee-keepers should use as little smoke as possible and by using a veil this could be obviated; he thought it was the best way to use means that would produce the largest amount of results. Should a smoker be used a large smoker was preferable to a small one as it did not require filling so often.

Mr. Hirschiser said he considered the Bingham smoker far ahead of any other as it had a good draft and keeps a long time.

Mr. Miller, describing the working

and different parts of his smoker recommended it on account of the improvements it has.

Mr. McEvoy said that in extracting seasons he used as little smoke as possible and followed Mr. Dickenson's plan of lifting a whole row of supers at a time and shaking the bees out. He considered the Paterson smoker as good as those of American make, it is a large smoker too. The smokers he usually found on his rounds were not of much account.

Mr. Hershiser remarked that all Canadian articles were of superior make.

Mr. Lowey said he liked the smoker which was being exhibited if the bellows were turned wide end down, the barrel also was good but he would throw the nozzle away. He also advocated the use of little smoke, stating that he used a smoker and a veil when working in his yard.

Mr. Bailey (Bracebridge) thinks there is a good deal in the management of bees. He advocated the use of a large smoker as with plenty of fuel it gives smoke a long time. If grass is put in the nozzle and a little in the bottom of the smoker it will give better smoke and better fire with less work. He was in favor of lighting the smoker from the top instead of from the bottom.

Mr. Hershiser remarked that he was an American and that this was a Canadian Convention, but that all present were smokers, and if the Convention could prevent some of them from being inveterate smokers, the discussion would indeed be fruitful in its results.

Mr. Timbers stated that he had tried the plan of using grass and green grass too and it kept the fire down and therefore kept it cooler and prevented so much moisture round the top of the smoker, which shortens the life of the smoker by half. For fuel

he advocated cedar bark or old punk wood.

At the close of the discussion the chairman requested Miss Trevorrow of Meadowville to read her paper on "Bee keeping as an occupation for women."

(See next issue.)

### BRITISH COLUMBIA FOR BEE-KEEPING.

Editor Canadian Bee Journal:

Our Provincial Government, through its Agricultural and Bureau of Provincial Information Department, is making such strenuous efforts, by the display of British Columbia fruits, both in Eastern Canada and in England and Scotland, also by the distribution of large quantities of official literature pertaining to this industry in particular and agriculture in general, to attract settlers to this province, that many persons are turning their thoughts westward, in the hope of enjoying the many advantages offered in a new country, which in the older-settled parts of the world are often denied.

From many of these would-be settlers come enquiries pertaining to bee-keeping. I have received several letters, personally and through our Provincial Department, asking for information, from persons in Canada, England and Scotland. I have answered them to the best of my information and local experience. I have an enquiry in hand from Berkshire, in England, as to the suitability of the Fraser Valley for bee-keeping. When we consider that the Fraser is over 200 miles long, one can see the difficulty of answering the question. British Columbia is a big country, composed mostly of mountains and valleys, with climate as diversified as its surfaces, and of course the conditions in favor or against bee-keeping are very varied. As regards the Fraser Valley, I think it a fairly promising district for the

bee-keeper. Around the Delta, Pitt Meadows and Chilliwack there is considerable white clover and orchard, but the land is low-lying and damp, which makes the season rather late. Quite a little honey is produced in this lower portion of the valley. A Mr. Smith of Chilliwack used to produce honey, but he sold out several years ago and went to California, whether for better crops or better health I know not, but I understand the locality is pretty well stocked. We do not see as much honey from Chilliwack now as formerly. As regards the upper stretches of the Fraser, from a bee-keeping standpoint, I am ignorant, but I do know it is very hot in summer and quite cold in winter.

As far as I can learn, the most promising district for honey production is in the Okanagan, about Armstrong, Vernon and Enderby, but I am told by a friend there that the winters are very trying on the bees.

The changes are sudden and severe. Several days of cold, freezing weather followed by many days of warm Chinook winds. Much moisture is developed by the activity of the bees during the warm spell, which freezes up during the cold spells, to be thawed again by the next warm Chinook wind and which makes the hives damp and devitalizes the bees by spring. In the Nicola Valley there are good prospects. I am informed by our Deputy Minister of Agriculture. It is in the dry belt and there is much irrigated land, producing clover and alfalfa. At present it has no railway accommodation within 50 miles, and the thermometer drops away below zero in winter. Around Victoria bee-keeping is a failure on account of our strong, cold, dry, southwest winds, which extend well in June. I tried to the best of my ability to keep bees successfully here, but after the third season moved them 10 miles out of town. Still there are

new spots from the city where a can be had.

We have a wide new blood to welcome, but be keeping the new. all the local information and studying the of the most pro

Victoria, B.C., I

FROM GERMAN

Translated by  
(Leipzig)

The year 1906 has been the poorest in the few localities was plus, very few colonies for winter stock could be found many bee-yards it feeding and many subsist entirely onunately, the fall feeding and so they group properly; in quite an expense and the right kind of discouraged by need not worry about it is very scarce. Honey now sells at 21) per 100 pounds, 10 pfgs., (28 cts.) per pity that in good some bee-keepers a get rid of their hives own the prices.

Switzerland, France and also poor seasons

Influence of Sugar  
What is the best time for honey season if strong colonies the principal thing



new spots from 6 to 16 miles out from the city where a moderate success can be had.

We have a wide, rich country, awaiting new blood to open it up. All are welcome, but before taking up bee-keeping the new-comer should secure all the local information, and by going and studying the climatic conditions of the most promising districts.

E. F. ROBINSON.

Victoria, B.C., Dec. 30, 1906.

#### FROM GERMAN BEE JOURNALS.

Translated by Jacob Haberer.  
(Leipziger Bienenzeitung.)

The year 1906 has been declared one of the poorest in memory. In only a few localities was there a little surplus, very few colonies gathered enough for winter stores and starved colonies could be found in summer. At many bee-yards it was high time for feeding and many colonies have had to subsist entirely on sugar syrup. Fortunately, the fall was favorable for feeding and so they could work up the syrup properly; in large apiaries it was quite an expense and a lot of labor but the right kind of bee-keeper will not be discouraged by this. Just now we need not worry about the sale of honey as it is very scarce.

Honey now sells at 9 marks (about \$11) per 100 pounds, wholesale. I mark 10 pfg., (28 cts.) per pound retail. It is a pity that in good seasons always some bee-keepers are too anxious to get rid of their honey and so bring down the prices.

Switzerland, France and Belgium had also poor seasons.

#### Influence of Sugar Syrup Stores.

What is the bee-keeper to do in a poor honey season if he wants to have strong colonies the following spring? The principal thing that brings bees

to a first class condition is honey. A colony can be wintered on sugar syrup alone, and in a season like the present, in many places, it has to suffice whether good or bad. But such a colony will not prosper as well in the spring except an unusually early honey flow succeeds. The bees, to become strong, must have honey. The queen can be stimulated to good egg production only as she is well fed by the bees with honey. The point is this that sugar syrup alone will not take the place of honey and that in even a poor season the honey should not be taken too close, leave as much as possible. A part of sugar syrup will answer but the best results will accrue from the larger percentage of their self-gathered sweet. The queen will be more prolific and the bees will build up better in the spring than when fed exclusively on sugar syrup.

#### An Unexpected Fall Flow.

Bees in the vicinity of Canstadt, Germany, secured a bumper-crop of sweet things on somewhat easy terms. A sugar factory was destroyed by fire and on the second story some large vats with liquid sugar had been stored the bees soon found the treasure and not objecting to the burnt smell, nor questioning the cleanliness, proceeded to fill their hives with the rich, brown syrup. We are assured that the bee-keepers didn't need to feed this fall. Extractors had to be used and in some instances swarming took place in the very peculiar and untimely flow which was taken advantage of by the bees for over three miles around.

#### Distance of Flight of Bees for Honey Gathering.

By Rev. H. Schmitt.

My bee-keeping field is the small island Langeness in the North Sea. It



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of the hive and bees without the cover. Will this be enough to bring them known by the feebleness of the queen, the scattered appearance of the brood, or the brood nest reduced in size.

When this appears it is safe to assume that the queen should be superseded at the first opportunity.

Q.—Is the valley of the Fraser River, British Columbia, suitable or otherwise, for bee-keeping, and for marketing honey—H. W., Berkshire, England.

A.—I am not aware that many are engaged in bee-keeping in the Fraser River valley. The Fraser River drains a great extent of country with quite a variation of climate. Near the mouth of the river a great deal of rain falls, especially during the winter months. I would expect there would be many sheltered locations some distance up the river that would be suitable for bee-keeping. Judging from the high price of honey in British Columbia the market should be good.

R. H. SMITH.

Better than ever: The Farmers' Advocate, London, Ont., continues to lead the way as a Farm and Home magazine. The Christmas Number is better than ever; full of good matter and beautifully illustrated: \$1.50 per annum with The Canadian Bee Journal.

Stirling, Dec. 10, 1906.

Gentlemen,—I wish to express my sincere thanks in regard to the fountain pen you are offering as a premium with the "Canadian Bee Journal." I received it in good condition and find it equal to most pens of twice the price of the paper; in fact, it has been examined by skilled hands and found superior to ordinary pens.

Respectfully yours,

W. J. FOX.

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#### WANTED.

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If you have either comb or extracted honey (clover or basswood), write me. I am wanting more, and can pay you perhaps more than some. State price and how put up. G. A. Deadman, Brussels, Ont.

**FOR SALE**—Or exchange 25 comb honey supers, 8 fr., with section supports, slat separators and springs, \$6.50, or will exchange for 25 pounds of good bees wax. Apply Drawer 331, Canadian Bee Journal, Brantford, Ont.

**FOR SALE**—Honey pails. New design; lithographed in three colors—blue, white and gold. A handsome package. Sample by mail for 12c. R. H. Smith, St. Thomas.

**WANTED**—First-class comb or extracted honey or bees wax, for cash, or in exchange for goods we manufacture or sell. Goid, Shapley & Muir Co., Ltd., Brantford, Ont.

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**FOR SALE**—Six in. Foundation machine, nearly new, price \$10. Alpaugh four-piece section foundation fastener, a good machine; price, \$2. Daisy section foundation fasteners, 50c each.

**WANTED**—Any one in Eastern Canada having Barnes Foot-power Saw for sale, in good condition, better write me particulars. R. B. Ross, Jr., 412 Coristine Building, Montreal.

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