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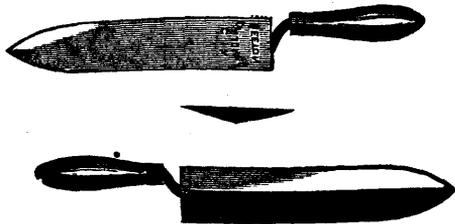
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We have just to hand a large shipment of honey knives from the makers, Lockwood Bros. Sheffield, England. These are undoubtedly the finest we have had made yet, being the most perfect in shape and neatness of manufacture.



These Knives are made of the Finest Razor Steel.

Ebony Polished Handle, mirror polish.....\$1 50  
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D. A. JONES, Beeton, Ont.

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High side-walls, 4 to 14 square feet to the pound. Wholesale and retail. Circular and samples free.

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### 150 COMPLIMENTARY

and UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIALS from as many bee-keepers in 2883. We guarantee every inch of our Foundation equal to sample in every respect.

CHAS. DADANT & SON,  
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1-6m.

## NORTH SHADE APIARY.

ITALIAN BEES. Full colonies in the L. or the Gallop hives. Nuclei, Queens, and bees by the pound for the season. Price Lists Free. C. H. TOWNSEND,  
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## MUTH'S HONEY EXTRACTOR

Is second to none in the market. Square Gear, Honey Jars, Tin Buckets, Langstroth Bee Hives, one-piece Sections, etc., etc. Circulars mailed on application. Send ten cents for "Practical Hints to Bee-Keepers." Address

CHARLES F. MUTH,  
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## SECTIONS.

### THE NEW ONE-PIECE SECTION.

Though these sections cost more to make than the old style, still we are supplying them at the same price. We keep in stock 3 1/2 x 4 1/2 (ours), and 4 1/2 x 4 1/2 (Langstroth), and can make any other sizes to order on short notice. Prices:

Per 1,000.....\$ 6 00  
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## Bees & Queens

At greatly reduced prices. After June 15th I will sell two frames of Nuclei, with two pounds of bees in each, no queen, for \$2.25. Tested queens, \$1.50 each. Warranted purely mated, \$1 each. Untested, 75 cents each; to Canada 10 cents more each queen, unless five or more are taken at one time.

I. R. GOOD,  
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## ITALIAN QUEENS.

TESTED \$2.00 TO \$4.00.

UNTESTED \$1.00 TO \$2.00.

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#### ROOT'S IMPROVED CELL,

Sheets 12 inch, wide cut to order.

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We have just bought a large lot of Tinned Wire, No. 30 which seems to be the number best suited for wiring frames and we are able to sell it very low:

Spools holding one pound, each..... 30c  
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" " one ounce, each..... 07c  
Reels, of from three to five pounds, per lb. 25c

The spooled wire is much more convenient than that on reels as there is no danger of tangling. These prices will supersede those in our price list.

D. A. JONES,  
Beeton, Ont

## The Canadian Bee Journal.

D. A. JONES & Co., Publishers.

### OUR OWN APIARY.

**I**S we have two short-hand writers in the office, we shall be able almost every week to drive to some or all of the yards and report the various operations going on from time to time. At the "Wallwin yard" there is one thing we think we have not mentioned before; just opposite the entrance to the bee yard stands a clump of willows; the peculiarity about them is that they have bloomed every year about the same time as ground or dwarf maple. Their ordinary appearance is very much like other willows in the locality, yet they bloom much later, and since noting this fact we have found a number of others in the locality blooming about the same time. The bloom continues from about six to ten days, and they yield honey very liberally. Now, this is very important, as the gap between fruit bloom and white clover, is thus filled in. We have pressed some of the blossoms and intend to exhibit them at the Toronto Exhibition. At this yard a large number of grape vines are planted in front of the hives to shade them. Rows of sunflowers also assist in shading the hives. As the number of colonies in this yard usually runs from one to three hundred, we have not grape vines enough to shade all the colonies. We have not allowed the grass to grow for several years in this yard, and the soil is very light and sandy. Having had much windy weather this season, the sand has drifted about considerably, and we have about come to the conclusion to sod it over again, as the sand drifting into the hives is very disagreeable. We have about 40 nuclei hives in which we keep young queens to draw from. We find that in spite of the large number of nuclei we are making,

they have about doubled the number by artificial and natural swarming; then they are filling the combs so full of honey, we have to extract every three or four days. Looking at the barrels of honey in the bee houses one would almost wonder where it all came from; yet when we see the immense number of bees passing in at the entrance of each hive laden with their precious loads of honey we can easily account for the large quantity produced. Taking into consideration that each one passing in represents one drop of honey, and that they enter five or six times as fast as the sap usually drops from a maple tree, so where two or three gallons of sap is collected daily from them, the only wonder is that we have not more to extract than we have, and we can only account for the difference by the quantity being used for brooding. Here in this apiary, as well as the others, we keep a number of queen nurseries, which every bee-keeper with over five or ten colonies should have. For instance, in one hive in which was the old queen, they were gathering honey and carrying on brooding in the ordinary way, and there were two queen nurseries filled with queens ready to be introduced to other colonies, or shipped if desired. Each queen nursery contains twenty fine queens, without in any way preventing the colonies from carrying on their ordinary work. From 20 to 100 queens may be kept in each colony by these nurseries. We have made a great improvement in them over the original queen-nursery. One improvement is a tin pocket very simply arranged, which holds sufficient food to last the queen and her attendants for two or three weeks. Heretofore the food in the cages was liable to become dry, or the bees sometimes put their proboscis through the screens and removed some of it, besides there was danger from daubing or leakage. The value of a queen nursery in every well regulated apiary can scarcely be estimated.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### INTERESTING NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA.

**T**HROUGH your kindness I am in receipt of the first three numbers of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. I like its appearance very much, and should like to take it very much, but already have two—the *Kansas Bee-Keeper* and *Gleanings*. I do not feel that we are able to take another bee journal at this time.

The peculiar climate of this coast needs a bee journal of its own. It had one, but I am sorry to say that our bee-keepers let it die a lingering and ignominious death; in fact nine-tenths of the bee-keepers in San Diego, Cal., take no bee papers at all. I have no doubt that one-third of them never heard of a bee-paper in their lives. About all these men know—all they can know—is to put on and take off the section boxes.

Ask one of these fellows if they are bothered with fertile workers—or if they spread the brood in the spring, or how long, after mating, it takes before the queen begins to lay, and he would stare at you with open mouth! Most probably he would pronounce you an idiot, or charitably ascribe your state of mind to too much tangle-foot! Last summer a gentleman came to our place on a visit. He very seldom has less than 300 hives, and some years as high as 500. He has got, some years, as high as \$3,000 for his honey! He stood perfectly aghast, when he saw me use the Clark smoker. Will you believe it—can you believe it? He never saw a bellows-smoker in his life! He had never heard of *Gleanings*, the *American Bee Journal*, the *Magazine* nor the *Kansas Bee-Keeper*! I gave him sample copies. He said if he was lucky, and got a good crop of honey, he might subscribe for one of them! And yet this man has been a bee-keeper here for fifteen years! He has produced a great deal of honey in good seasons—but he has done it from a great many hives.

The great problem with you, in your inhospitable climate, is how to get over the hard cold winter safely, and how to get all the pollen out of the hives—and prevent dysentery.

With us it is different. Here we aim, or ought to aim, to have 60 or 70 lbs. of honey in the brood chamber at the close of the honey season. As for pollen they gather that the year round. Thus equipped—with a good queen—they fear no enemy—ask no favors—and are ready to do and die for their firesides and their homes! The first year I was here—some four years ago—I had my head stuffed full of some of the notions of distinguished bee-keepers of the east. Taking no note of the climate, I took all their pollen from them at the beginning of the Winter. What did they do? Why, they just went out

and hired wagons, and hauled it in by the ton! Now, Friend Jones, I am not a man that is given to exaggeration. These are cold-rolled, concentrated facts! There is no use in a man attempting to write for a bee paper, without he is prepared to give facts. In truth, facts are the foundation of all our troubles, as well as all our successes. But I have no doubt that many of the bee-keepers will look upon the foregoing statements as very extraordinary—and some few will doubt it. For the benefit of these few then, I will say this—if you had been here, and looked through these hives two weeks after ward, you would have *thought* they brought it in by the ton somehow! There now! I won't come down another ounce—not another ounce of pollen!

The dry part of the year, or rather the parts of the year there is no honey at all, is from about the first of July till the first of January. About the latter date the first of the ground flowers come out in bloom. From this time on till about the middle of March, brood rearing goes on rapidly. Then swarming commences and is kept up until about the middle of June. Last year there was an immense honey flow here. This year there will not be the half of the amount produced. There is a dry belt along the coast—the whole length of the state—in which there will be very little honey made. This belt is from 10 to 40 miles wide. In this belt there has been very little rain. We are in the belt ourselves, and do not expect to produce half as much from 119 hives, as we did last year from 18. Back in the country—near the mountains—they have had plenty of rain and will make a good crop of honey. On the whole then, I do not think that California will make more than half as much honey as she did last year.

I think if honey in the east were as low as it is here, many of the A. B. C. scholars would have their enthusiasm knocked into the middle of next week! What do you think of 3½ cents for extracted honey—the best quality? This is in cans that cost the party who produces it one cent per pound. So he gets but 2½ cents for his honey. Comb honey is worth from 6 to 7 cents. This costs the producers 1½ cents for sections and case. If he has no team of his own, he has to pay out of this for hauling to town, probably half or three quarters of a cent per pound. So you see we only get really from four to five cents for comb honey.

It would be presumption in me—a mere mite in the bee-keeping world—to wish success to the monarch of the hive—to the man who has never marched, without he has marched on to victory!

But I can, and do wish success and a long and useful life to your "baby"—the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

J. P. ISRAEL

San Diequito, San Diego Co., Cal., May, 1885.

We are quite aware, Friend Israel, that the climate of California is very different from ours, and that bees require very different management in many respects from what they do in Canada, but we think we will be able to give you some hints during the year which will more than pay you for your subscription. We are very sorry your bee paper was allowed to die. We took it (as we do every bee paper printed in the English language) and although our climate was very different from yours yet we found many interesting and instructive articles in it. Our bees in this country are not in the habit of hiring teams to bring in the pollen, or building railways especially for that purpose, you doubtless have more pollen in California than we have here. In our own locality we don't usually have a surplus of pollen but we get good yields of honey in Canada for a term of years. On an average, we think bees—properly managed—would produce quite as much in Canada as in California, and we are glad to say that we are never offered the ridiculously low prices that you quote. We should imagine that very few in California eat honey, as at those prices, in Canada, we would feel inclined to consume five or six times as much as we produce; 2½ cents for extracted honey and 6 or 7 for comb is something we never dream of in this country, and if a local market were cultivated with you, it appears to us that no such low prices would rule. Has it been well introduced in the lumbering and mining camps, factories, and among the farming community? If so, its cheapness should encourage its use to the exclusion of all other sweets. In Canada the "farming community" about

85 per cent of our population can alone consume (when it is properly introduced amongst them) more than we are likely to produce for some time to come.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

#### HOW TO BUILD A BEE HOUSE.

I AM about to build a bee house. My lot is clay. I have a side hill facing the east. Should you dig out in the side hill or build above ground. Please give description.

S. BRUMMELL.

Canton, Ont.

We think the place you speak of would be an excellent location for a repository, but it should be dug under ground, or in the bank. It could be made better perhaps by digging back into the bank some distance, and scraping the ground away in front; or you could have the sides and entrance all under ground and your workshop could be on top; but the joists under the work shop and over the bees should be from 14 to 18 inches deep (or two sets as the case may be) by which you will get that space between the two floors. The joists should be sealed on the underside over the bees, then sawdust may be placed between the joists, after which the top floors are laid. It would be better to build two walls out from the entrance door, making a hall, say four to six feet long. You could then bank this up and by placing on triple doors one at each end and one at the centre of the hall, leaving two air spaces so no frost could enter. You might instead of this build the bee house long enough so you could run a partition across the cellar and take the front part of it, say eight or ten feet wide, for an extracting room, and you could also have a pair of stairs going out of that extracting room up into the workshop which would be very convenient. But it would have another objection. It would make the cellar cold, and you would either have

to put a stone wall across, or a partition filled with sawdust,—the stone cross wall would require to be a foot thick, the sawdust partition about eight inches of sawdust. The cellar need not be more than seven feet high, though eight would do no harm. The necessary provisions for ventilation should be made.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

### NOTES FROM WILL'S APIARY.

NO. 2.—THE "DANDY" CAGE.

**W**ELL, what a name! Don't "snicker" until I tell what I mean. I have had considerable trouble trying to introduce queens, that is, caging them on the combs. I have tried the Peet cage, pushing the strips through the combs and clinching them, as it were, but it is unhandy in my opinion, and also in the opinion of many others. There are certain times, colonies, etc., when queens can be introduced with very little trouble; at other times it seems almost impossible to "get 'em in." Well, a couple of weeks ago I had a queen to introduce, and in going in the shop I noticed the screw-cap of a self-sealing jar. Thinks I to myself, "you will be just what I want." I'll get the shears and cut a piece of wire cloth and press it in tight so the bees cannot get it out. So I did, and started for the hive with cage and queen; let her run on the comb, set the cage over her, screwed it into the comb and then held up the frame and took a good look at it. "So neat and so handy, says I, your a 'Dandy' the news over Canada, and to Uncle Sammy by this mail must go." Now this may be old to some, but if so, I have never seen it. Just try it once, reader, and if you introduce by caging I think you will like it. If you wish them to eat her out you can cut a small hole through the combs from the back, and plug it up with a piece of comb, and let them eat from the back, but I like to be around about that time to set 'em free. I was going to write a little on another subject but I'll stop right here and give some of the other friends a chance.

WILL. ELLIS.

St. David's, Ont., June 26th, 1885.

Your discovery, Friend Ellis, is quite new to us. We have not heard of its being used for that purpose before, but feel sure it will work splendidly, as we have been using something that probably works about the same. It is perfor-

ated metal, cut from three to six inches square, then a piece about three-quarters of an inch square, cut out of each corner. This enables you to bend the sides down, making a perforated box without a lid. We find them most excellent for caging queens on combs. Give us what you were going to on that other subject, Friend Ellis, we are sure that the readers of the C. B. J. will be glad to hear from you.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### DUTY ON BEESWAX AGAIN.

**I** HOPE in all fairness to the members of the Listowel Bee-Keepers' Association you will publish a few lines in defence of the beeswax controversy pitched into by Mr. Deadman, of Brussels. I delight in the most of the correspondence of the C. B. J. Such writers as Mr. A. Pringle are A. No. 1, and some other grand correspondents are bound to place our JOURNAL above the necessity of publishing metaphysical correspondence, but to the point. Mr. Deadman keeps bees in the village of Brussels. He reaps where he sows not. He does not meet with any bee-keepers association convenient to him; he ignores such meetings, condemns the diffusion of bee knowledge, hence his metaphysical teachings, no doubt for fear his neighbors, the farmers who sow the rich clovers, should put on stocks of bees sufficient to gather the nectar of their own productions. This is not all; as a druggist he deals in wax. He states he has paid the duty on 500 pounds of it. It would be unfair to take off the duty while he paid twenty per cent., on his stock. A pretty idea that all the bee-keepers of the Dominion should suffer on his account. He calls loudly for protection. Mr. Editor, you were present when the leading Conservatives of our Association moved the resolution to be sent to Mr. Hesson, member for North Perth, asking him to press the matter to have beeswax entered free. 80 cents is more easily paid than \$1.00; but even this was not the incentive. \$1.00 per pound was offered one year ago for foundation, but it could not be obtained at any price. The entire want of it was what caused the effort to be made to have the duty taken off. Not a man or woman ever breathed politics in our Association. We know the revenue must be maintained, but the argument was, that the Government might see fit to foster an infant industry by admitting beeswax duty free. One of our members sent for some foundation to the United States, but it was held

In the Custom House so long that the season was over before it arrived. Mr. Deadman's last argument was that a large bee-keeper would wish the duty to remain, as he would have wax to sell. But I say, the more bees, the more foundation is required. If he means to run his apiary to produce wax, we wish him luck, should he succeed we will have metaphysical treats in the *BEE JOURNAL* no doubt! He pitches into our old Friend, Mr. C. Mitchell, but this same controversy proves Mr. M's. argument true—that the supply dealer's interests and that of the bee-keeper's are often at variance. Hoping this explanation may satisfy all that the Listowel Bee-Keepers Association made a very proper effort in the interest of all real bee-keepers that were not otherwise dealing in wax. With compliments to all our bee-keeping friends.

GEORGE BROWN.

Molesworth, Ont.

Friend Brown is right about the great delay caused at the Customs' department in the receipt of foundation, or, for that matter, anything else, coming into Canada; especially in the matter of foundation. is this delay very vexing, and productive of much loss too, in the height of the honey season. Of course if you can make arrangements with a broker at the port of entry to have your goods passed immediately on arrival, even this difficulty may be removed, but then the majority of bee-keepers do not have *enough* business to do of this nature to make it an object to have a broker do their business. When wax or foundation *has* to come from the U. S., friend B's argument is a good one in favor of the removal of the duty.

For the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

#### THE BOOMHOWER QUEEN CAGE.

**I**NCLOSED find subscription for the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. I like its make-up and am well-pleased with it. I have wintered all my bees without the loss of a single colony. I went into Winter quarters with 160 stocks. I have always bred Queens from mothers, whose bees pass the winter the quietest and care the least about being disturbed, and I know if more attention was paid to this matter not so many bees would be lost in wintering. One of my old breeding queens was wintered out

of doors with only bees enough to cover three frames, and at this date they are a nice strong colony. I send you by same mail as this a sample of my new safety shipping and introducing cages. The protection case holds two cages. I cut them in block to hold from one to four cages. You will see the device is cheap and strong, and it is the only device in the shape of a queen cage that fills all the requirements of the Postal Law. To introduce the queen, hang the cage, wire part downward, between two centre brood frames. In the course of thirty or forty hours turn the tin around, and the bees will remove the candy and the queen will walk out unmolested by the bees. I have tested this cage largely and it gives the best satisfaction of any cage yet made. What do you think of the whole arrangement?

F. BOOMHOWER.

Gallupville, N. Y.

The cage is very ingeniously gotten up, and appears to be quite original. We have never seen anything like it before. We think, with you, that it will be a good introducing cage; if worked as you describe we scarcely think there would be any loss in introducing. It is also a very safe shipping cage and we are making some like them that we may test them, as from appearances we think they will just fill the bill.

## QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear each week, Queries and Replies; the former may be propounded by any subscriber, and will be replied to by prominent bee-keepers, throughout Canada and the United States who can answer from experience, as well as by the Editor. This Department will be reserved for the more important questions, others will be answered in another place. We hope to make this one of the most interesting departments of the *JOURNAL*.

### HOW TO FEED FOR STIMULATION.

QUERY No. 23.—TORONTO, ONT.—Is it desirable to feed for stimulation when there are heavy stores still left in the hive, or will it do to uncap the comb which they have?

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N.Y.—I never feed in such a case, as I have not found it profitable.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—The uncapping might be best, for fear of limiting queen's room for laying.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—When there are plenty of stores left in a hive and

stimulation is required, the best mode of stimulating is to uncap.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—I cannot see any particular advantage in stimulative feeding. Perhaps what is true in my locality is not true in other localities.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—Uncapping will do nearly as well. If no other bees are near to steal then I should have the bees carry honey from combs outside to hive.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—It is best to let well enough alone. When I find a colony heavy with stores I let them alone, unless certain conditions demand a change.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—I would break the caps. It will both stimulate and give the queen room. If the weather is warm or the colony strong enough, the uncapped comb may be placed in the centre of the brood nest.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.—It will do to break the capping of the comb. Many very intelligent bee-keepers are of the opinion that bees know by instinct when they are well off and raise brood accordingly. The bee-keeper may intend to feed daily, but the bees are not aware of the good intentions of the owner and only raise brood sparingly when stores are not abundant.

H. COUSE, THE GRANGE, ONT.—It is not necessary to feed in this case, neither is it to uncap the combs. You will find that it takes very little uncapping of honey to start robbing in the Spring. Here is a very serious objection to the late theory of spreading the combs for Winter, necessitating the uncapping of the combs in order to get them close enough for breeding purposes. What kind of a mess would you have when there is much stores in the combs, and especially with a weak colony?

S. T. PETTIT, BELMONT, ONT.—It is not. Plenty of good stores, comfortable quarters and water, with just enough salt in it to suit the taste of the bees, in a sunny sheltered place, are the necessary requisites for the best results from bees in normal condition. Just let your bees alone and they will do their level best, if you supply the above conditions. Don't keep a queen that has to be coaxed to supply eggs for the colony. Bees are often injured by opening and tinkering at them especially in Spring.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—Speaking for myself I do either or both, according to circumstances. If the uncapping suffice rest there; i

not do both. It must be remembered, however, that it is quite possible to stimulate the queen into exceeding the nursing capacity of the number of workers present in the hive, and this, unless corrected, ends disastrously. The bee-keeper must watch, observe, and use his own judgment.

BY THE EDITOR.—Uncapping a little every day or two if the weather is suitable will stimulate them to breeding quite as well as feeding; and should the cells be too long to raise worker brood in, it will increase the brood circle to shave the cells down to the necessary height, when they will be occupied by the queen.

## SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

WM. MASON, ROCKDALE, TEXAS.—I extracted ninety-four pounds of horsemint honey from one colony of Cyprians to-day—all gathered in fourteen days. Cyps. are away ahead here.

I. MICHENER, LOW BANKS, ONT.—Our bees wintered very well, some in cellar and some on summer stands in chaff hives, but they have been dying by inches ever since, and are failing yet as fast as ever. Should think that fully three-fourths of last Fall's stocks are dead. With us the trouble is not so much "how to Winter" as "how to put them through the Spring." They fly out after pollen and water, and with the cold winds of Lake Erie, they chill and perish, and so dwindle down until some cool night the brood chills and dies—when "up" goes the whole business. Could anyone tell us how to get through the Spring we would be all right.

J. S. SCHWALM, CLIFFORD, ONT.—Last Spring (1884), I started with twelve colonies—nine Italians and three Black. My Italians have increased to twenty-five colonies, but my Blacks did not swarm at all. I took in all about 300 pounds of honey. Sold some of my colonies and put twenty-one colonies in Winter quarters. They had plenty of stores, except a few late swarms, and these I fed syrup made of crushed sugar and candy. I have kept them in an old log house, and they have done well. Set them out about the middle of April, and found ten dead of dysentery with plenty of honey left. I blame myself, for I neglected putting on chaff cushions.

### MANITOULIN HONEY RESOURCES.

A visitor to this island, situated at the North end of Georgian Bay writes of its bee-keeping

resources as follows: "Bee-keeping is destined to be a profitable investment on Manitoulin Island, and an old resident, who had been experimenting with bees for many years, stated that he considered this island an exceptionally fine place for bee-farming, owing to the numerous honey producing plants, which are successively flowering. He stated that the quantity and proportionate quality of honey which he had obtained was equal to any he had ever seen in Ontario. The testimony of this gentleman is corroborated by others interested in bee-farming.

JAS. RAYBURN, CALEDON, ONT.—Having received the sample copies of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL you sent me, and prizing the model bee-journal so highly, I herewith enclose my subscription. Last Winter was the most disastrous ever known in this locality on bees. Some lost one-third, some two-thirds, and some their entire stocks. I put thirteen colonies into Winter quarters last Fall—nine in clamps and four in cellar. Rats destroyed three of those in cellar. Of those in clamps I lost five. one of those now alive in clamps is without a queen and is almost dwindled away. This leaves me only four out of thirteen. I send you my experience in wintering to put other bee-keepers on their guard against rats. Wishing you every success with the BEE JOURNAL.

#### EXTRACTING FROM BROOD FRAMES.

A. McNAMARA, LAFONTAINE, ONT.—Can honey be extracted from frames containing eggs and uncapped brood without throwing them out?

Yes; that is just what we do every year, always extracting every comb in the brood chamber, and our success in the business proves whether it is right or wrong.

Can frames the same as used in brood-chamber be used in the upper story of two-story hives and the queen be excluded?

Yes if desired, as it sometimes is for strong colonies.

#### AN OLD BEE.

J. H. FREEMAN, WARDSVILLE, ONT.—I send you a bee, which one of the colonies keep whipping out of their hive every day. I do not know whether it is a bee or not. Prof. Cook speaks of flies greatly resembling bees. Please tell what it is and why the bees keep putting it out?

The insect you sent is a bee. It is an old bee that in all probability left the hive to die, as is their usual custom. Probably the reason why you imagined it was a fly, is because the hair was

worn off the abdomen and the wings were very much broken, or worn out being notched and frayed around the edges.

#### ITALIANIZING—USING OLD AND MOULDY COMBS.

DOUGALD KEDDIE, VERNON, ONT. — Surely you must be flooded with and tired of hearing how bees have wintered. I put in cellar among roots and everything else, four Italian colonies, one in movable frame and three in common box hives. The swarms in first and one of the latter came out all right, but the two others died. At same time I put away seven swarms of black bees all in box hives, of these one died in winter also. The bees lost in Winter died from dysentery, being short of stores. I fed them some old and slightly fermented honey which I think induced the disease. On the 25th April I put them out. The two Italians are doing well but of the black bees I have lost two swarms. On examining their boxes, I find one to have plenty of honey, the other being empty. I think the Italians must have relieved them as the boxes were heavy and bees numerous when put out. Two others of the black bees are very weak although they have plenty of honey and I hardly hope to save them, the Spring is so backward and cold. Most emphatically "Winter still lingers in the lap of Spring." The beginning of this week we had a regular "Nor-Easter" with not less than six inches of snow. However the ground is bare at last but no growth worth mentioning. I wish to begin at once to use your paper. Would you kindly answer as soon as convenient the following questions:

My bees, Italians and blacks, are on stands not more than 16 feet apart from one another, should I put them farther?

No. Our hives are not half that distance apart.

How can I best proceed to Italianize the black swarms?

Introduce Italian queens about swarming time.

Can I use comb from hives in which bees died of dysentery to put in movable frame hives?

Yes.

Can I use comb slightly mouldy for the same purpose?

Yes; it would be as well to brush off the mould with a wisp before putting them in.

How, and about what time is it best to change from box to movable frame hives?

Do not transfer bees before fruit bloom, and unless weather is favourable, not before white clover bloom.

And now in conclusion, I heartily wish you every success in your new enterprise of the JOURNAL, and shall recommend it to others.

JAS. B. MASON, MECHANIC FALLS, ME.—The late mortality of bees has been the heaviest for the last twenty years in this locality, all careless bee-keepers having lost nearly all their bees. Our bees were put into the cellar thirty-seven colonies strong, and thirty-four came out in good condition. The Spring has been cold and backward, but at this date settled warm weather seems to have come, and bees are building fast and, storing some honey from maple and the earlier Spring flowers. One order for an extractor to-day states the bees are storing honey very fast and have sections nearly capped. This is an encouraging thing for Maine and we look forward to a prosperous season.

#### BLOTCHES AND SICKNESS FROM STINGS.

A. S. CROSBY, COMPTON, QUE.—It is safe for a person to work among bees when a single sting will cause blotches all over the body and sickness at the stomach?

We think it is owing to the peculiar condition of the system. We do not think a perfectly healthy person would be so affected. You can easily protect yourself by veil and gloves, and as soon as the system becomes more healthy, as it likely will, no bad results will follow. Probably by chewing and occasionally swallowing small quantities of propolis, which is usually gathered from Balm of Gilead, your health would so improve as to enable you to receive stings without such disagreeable effects. If you thoroughly bathe the parts which are stung with cold water, in all probability the blotches will not appear, as cold water, when applied immediately, seems to kill the bad effects entirely.

#### RIPENING HONEY—ANTS IN PACKING.

S. J. CHUBB, TORONTO, ONT.—In your last No. you caution us against putting up extracted honey until it is well ripened. I should like to know what temperature is required to ripen it and about how long it should be? I suppose the summer temperature in the hive is about 80 degrees most of the time, does it need as much heat as that?

We would prefer from 90° to 100° to ripen it rapidly, but above 70° it will

ripen gradually. The time depends on the temperature; from one to three weeks is the usual time. We have frequently taken it out quite thick enough when removed from the combs, but have put it in a deep tank or tin, when the unripe honey would rise to the top, while the thick, well-ripened would settle to the bottom. Thus by keeping the tank full you can continue to draw off the bottom.

I have one colony with sawdust packing round it. I thought I would let it remain so, instead of taking it out for summer, but I find a lot of black ants busy carrying out the sawdust through the crevices at the bottom. I think if I leave it I shall soon have as good a colony of black ants as of bees. Are ants often troublesome in the apiary.

They seem to delight in burrowing in sawdust, especially when it is dry, and warm. If you set a dish with a little sweetened water, in which is a little arsenic, under the hive, where nothing can get at it, you will kill all the ants without difficulty.

#### BEE'S SWARM ON A MAN'S HEAD.

FRIEND T. J. CONNELLY, HANCOCK, N. Y., sends us the following: Mr. J. B. Runkle, merchant at Mount Airy, Carroll County, has a number of bee-hives in the rear of his house. The bees have been quite lively for the past few days, and the odor of locust blossoms has had the effect of drawing out the families from every hive. Yesterday afternoon the bee family of one of the hives took a notion to "swarm." Mr. Runkle said they were Italian bees. They got up into the air in a knot and buzzed around. They seemed a little choice about a lighting spot. There was no place around that suited them, and they buzzed away a little longer. Mr. Charles D. Landerkin, telegraph operator, had been to dinner and was coming back to his office. He had to pass right under the bees. It occurred to the bees that Mr. Landerkin's head would be a good place to sit on, and they began descending. When the first bee struck his live end just under Mr. Landerkin's hat rim he jumped several feet and quickened his pace. He was not quick enough though, and several hundred bees landed on him in a lump, and the balance of the swarm were preparing to do the same thing. Mr. George Crouse, who was coming behind Mr. Landerkin, seemed to offer an attractive landing place for

the bees, too, and a number of them landed on him. He did not fare as badly as the operator. Mr. Landerkin was so severely stung by the bees that he fainted, and Dr. B. H. Todd was called, to attend him. His face was terribly swollen, and he was suffering severe pain. Mr. Runkle said that one of the bees struck him on the side of the head and knocked him nearly 10 feet up a grade.

J. B. ACHES, AMIENS, ONT.—I will now send you my report. For the Fall of 1884, I prepared 300 colonies for winter quarters. On the 10th of November I moved 200 colonies in the cellar under my house; the remaining 100 under a bank barn. They were all provided with plenty of honey, I let them remain there till the 17th of April 1885, having no opportunity for a good fly till that time. I removed the 200 from the cellar then, and they were in fair condition. The remaining 100 under bank barn did not winter so well as it was too damp and cold. Out of the 300 colonies I set 280 live colonies on the summer stands some in first class condition others again are weaker. In West Middlesex where I live as far as I know bee-keepers have lost heavily having lost all or two-thirds of their bees on account of the continued cold weather and the honey-dew they gathered late last Fall. I cannot give you a lengthy report of my bee-keeping, as I am very busy getting bees ready for sale, as there are very few bees left in the vicinity I am kept busy selling.

We are glad friend A to hear that you are one of the successful ones. We only wish there were more. The mortality seems to have been greater among small bee-keepers—those not accustomed to preparing bees properly for winter,—but the majority of our veterans, also some of our younger bee-keepers have succeeded quite beyond their expectations, many wintering their bees without even loss of one colony; you are quite right friend A to sell to your neighbors and give them a chance again. There seems to be an extraordinary demand for bees this season, and we fear there will not be enough to supply the demand in Canada.

#### MY REPORT FOR SPRING.

W. H. WESTON, LONDON, ONT.—To-day I examined my bees for the first time this year and was well pleased to find that every colony

was in good condition. Although I had two weak colonies in the Fall I thought I could winter them but I confess that in January when the mercury descended to between 20 and 25 below zero as it did in this locality that I had slight hopes for any of them. Last Fall there was quite a scarcity of honey here, as the basswood gave very little and on account of want of rain; we got none from the fall flowers, so about September I started to feed so as to keep the queen breeding and at the same time give them their supply for winter. I was greatly surprised to find that they had used such a small quantity of honey or syrup. I found that a large colony had used only about four frames, and the weak ones about two frames. I found brood in all five colonies so I took away some of the honey and contracted the brood chamber so as to economize heat and encourage breeding. I also broke the cappings on the comb near the brood for the same purpose. I wintered my bees in a clamp with the half stories on and a cushion on each hive of about five inches thick. There is one point which I have settled in my mind by the experience of this Winter and it is this, that the deep hives and the deep frames are the best to winter in, all other kinds I have no use for, for wintering out of doors even if I would get a small quantity more honey in the summer still I hardly think the difference would pay for the risk in wintering. I will follow Dr. Miller's advice and add the fall and spring report as above.

You are on the right track friend Weston, keep moving and you will make your apicultural mark in the world. Your convictions are those of many prominent and able bee-keepers.

#### SAGGED COMBS.

H. E. HILL, TITUSVILLE, PA.—Although much has been said in regard to this subject, it still remains a question of much importance, to me at least, and I am informed that some who have wired, putting the wire in vertically, find on examination that the combs have taken a gentle slide down the wires and matters are but slightly improved. But having had no personal experience could not say whether this is the general result, when foundation is wired thus, or not. Could not this difficulty be obviated by having the wire run horizontally and securely fastened to end bars of frames? If some benevolent friend who has tried this and knows by experience or otherwise, that it will, or will not, answer the purpose for which it is suggested, will kindly report their success through the C.B.J.

it will be regarded as a special favor.

We are satisfied that wires running horizontally would not work satisfactorily, as the end bars would not be strong enough to keep the wires from sagging, and the wires would sink into the wood when much weight was on them. If the foundation is attached to the top bar when wires are perpendicular (the way they are all used), we think there would be no difficulty about combs slipping down the wires. Many who wire all their frames, and who have practised it for years, report the most satisfactory results, and in no single instance where the work was properly done, have we heard any complaints. If the frames are wired not more than two inches apart and the foundation well fastened to the wires and top bar, you will experience no trouble in future. Perhaps some of our friends who have had more experience with wired frames will tell us their ideas.

SAMUEL HUFF, EDGAR, ONT.—I send you the following report of my first year's bee-keeping. As you are aware I commenced about a mile from you last spring with ten colonies and increased to twenty-two by dividing. I extracted about 600 lbs., of honey. But as I extracted very closely and extracted after the honey flow ceased I had to feed very heavily in fact some of the colonies had not one particle of honey when I commenced feeding. I fed 500 pounds of granulated sugar making each hive with the cover on weigh sixty pounds. On the 22nd of November I put them into an out-door cellar (the cave we called it) it is dug in the side of a hill is about nine feet wide by eighteen feet long covered with from two to four feet of clay and has double doors facing the south. I fixed a ventilating tube about ten inches square and eight feet above the top of the "cave" at the north end and also a sub-earth tube about four by eight inches and thirty feet long at the south. But as too much air appeared to come I stuffed the inner end of this with straw and closed the other tube by means of a slide to about one-third its fullsize. As I was leaving the neighborhood at the end of the year I left them in charge of your foreman Mr Conklin, and having done all I could I trusted to luck and to him till the Spring. On the 16th of April he wrote me that he had set

them out for a fly on the preceding Friday and put them back again the same evening. He had carefully gone through them and found three dead and one queenless which doubled up with the weakest colony, leaving me eighteen colonies in first class condition. I went down to Beeton on the following Friday and found that he had set them out again that morning. When I reached the yard they were flying as briskly as if it were June. I found that the weakest colony covered five frames and most of them covered seven, eight and even nine frames, and all the queens busy laying. There are no other beekeepers in this district so I will have the field all to myself. But I will no doubt feel lonesome and will often think of the many pleasant hours spent with the "boys" under that apple tree of yours. I will try and note carefully the flora of this neighborhood, and anything I can find out of interest to the fraternity I will be sure to let you know.

#### RUNAWAY SWARMS.

S. RICHARDS. SOUTH PARIS, ME.—We are having a heated term and strong colonies are swarming but several swarms after having been shaken into the top or in front of new hives have taken wing instantly and gone to the woods. Would it not be a better way to cut off the limb and place the cluster under the hive when it can be done, and in other cases to place an empty hive over the clustered bees and let them crawl up at leisure. Do you ever sprinkle a swarm to keep them from flying? I wish to learn the surest way to hive first and after swarms, so they will not swarm out again and fly to parts unknown. I hope to see this question discussed in the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, which paper, I think is the best for Northern Maine, the climate being the same. We had two months of severe cold weather the past Winter ranging from zero to thirty degrees below. Wintered my bees in a shed with six inches of chaff all around the hive with entrance cut through the side of the building to allow the bees to fly.

We think you would find if you put in a comb containing larvæ, honey, and bread, then poured a few of the bees on the combs, first or down at the entrance and allowed them to pass in, then by shaking the rest down in front, that you would have no difficulty in keeping your swarms at home. We never expect to lose one swarm in a thousand in that way. We do not think we have had one leave in the way you mention in

several years. We have not been in the habit of sprinkling swarms to keep them from flying away. A perforated metal entrance or metal division board will prevent the old queen from leaving. A second swarm usually has an unfertile queen, and of course it would not do to prevent her from leaving the hive, but as soon as she mates one wing may be clipped. We do not know of any reason why your bees should leave for the woods unless you leave them too long after they alight. Hive your bees promptly, as soon as clustered, or even before they are all clustered, prevent the rays of the sun from striking directly on the hive, or, in other words shade it so that it will be cool and suitable for them to occupy, and we do not think there will be any trouble.

## THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

D. A. JONES.

F. H. MACPHERSON

D. A. JONES &amp; CO.,

EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS.

BEETON, ONTARIO.

WEEKLY, \$1.00 per Year, Postpaid

BEETON, ONTARIO, JULY 15th, 1885.

Father Langstroth is well enough to be again able to use his pen. Our readers will be pleased to see an article, full of interest, from him in our next issue.

### SUPPLIES IN GENERAL.

Now that the honey flow is here orders for extractors, hives, etc., are rolling in. Most of those who were discouraged by the great loss of the past Winter are gathering up a fresh stock of courage.

### LOTS OF QUEENS WANTED.

There seems to be a big demand for queens of cheaper grades. We are being flooded with orders for virgins and mated queens, but are happy to say that we are up and hope to keep up with all orders.

### BOOKS FOR BEEKEEPERS.

Just received, another large shipment of *A. B. C. of Bee Culture*, by A. I. Root; also another hundred Cook's *Beekeepers' Guide*. Beekeepers

should read both these works, as well as others which are written on the subject, if they would *know* the road to success.

### INTRODUCING QUEENS.

In introducing a queen, a weak or small colony is preferable to a large one. Have no accompanying bees in the cage—the queen should be alone. Young bees will accept a queen more readily than old ones. No mailing cage that transmits queens safely is suitable for an introducing cage; in fact, a cage in which bees have been shipped is certain to have an objectionable odor. A new, clean cage made of fine wire cloth should be used. It should be not less than six inches long, and an inch and one-half across, so as to give the queen plenty of freedom, and should be placed between combs of brood. If no honey presses against the side of the cage where the queen can feed herself, food should be placed in the cage. Noon is the best time of the day in which to release the queen. When bees are storing honey rapidly they will accept a queen more readily. A young queen is more readily accepted than an old one. Black bees accept a strange queen the most readily of any variety of bees. When the bees are walking unconcernedly upon the cage, caressing the queen with their antennæ, and offering her food, it is usually safe to release her; if they are clinging to the cage like so many burs, wait until they are better natured.—L. C. Root in *American Agriculturist*.

### A STRANGE FREAK.

At our "Richardson yard" the other day something occurred, the like of which we never remember to have seen before. We had always thought that bees clustered before they flew away; such, however, in this instance was not the case. This was the first swarm (they were fine Italians) and the entire swarm was scarcely out of the hive before the first that came started for the woods without any attempt to cluster, or fly about in the usual way before clustering. When they came within a few rods of the tall timber which was about half a mile from the bee yard instead of flying back and forth, parallel with the wood, as they usually do when about to enter they did what bees generally do when they go over a wood, seemed to roll over and over until they had ascended above the tree tops; they then flew so rapidly that we could only follow them a short distance. There were no queen cells in the hive, which seemed to be equally strange. There were a few old queen cells, where queens had apparently hatched, which they had worked on slightly. Has any one had a similar experience? It is the first instance of the kind that has come under our notice.



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This little pamphlet is presented to the Bee-Keeping public with the hope that it may be the means of saving infected colonies from death by fire and otherwise. No expense is required to successfully treat the disease, other than the little time required for fasting.

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No. 1, takes Quinby and smaller frames, \$9; No. 2, takes L and square frames, \$7.00. In ordering give outside measure of frames. The Excelsior Cold Blast Smoker is what you want. Sent post paid for \$1. Circulars free.

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## Imported Cyprians and Imported Syrians.

Grades and Prices of Queens:	before	July	After
	June 1	June	Aug. Sept. 1st.
Finest Selected Queens, each	\$12.00	10.00	9.00 \$8.00
Fine Prolific Queens, each...	10.00	9.00	8.00 7.00
Smaller & darker Queens each	8.00	6.00	5.00 4.00

Owning an apiary in Cyprus and another in Syria, I have facilities equalled by no other person for obtaining choice queens of these races. I shall visit these aparies during the coming winter and return in early spring bringing with me a fine lot of queens. Those who desire Imported Cyprians, or Imported Syrians VERY EARLY can have them mailed direct from Cyprus or from Syria to their addresses during March, and on all queens so sent I will assume three-fourths of the risks, that is, will replace at one-fourth the regular price any that die in transit, provided the purchaser receives mail from New York City within five days time.

## Imported Carniolans and Imported Italians.

Grades and Prices of Queens:	before	July	After
	June 1	June	Aug. Sept. 1st.
Finest Selected Queens, each	\$7.00	\$6.00	5.00 \$4.50
Fine Prolific Queens, each...	6.00	5.00	4.50 4.00

I have several times visited both Carniola and Italy, inspecting at each visit a large number of aparies, and also have, for several years, kept side by side imported stocks of both of these races, and I unhesitatingly give the preference to the Carniolans. They are the gentlest bees known, equal the Italians in honey-gathering qualities and in point of beauty, and far excel them in prolificness and hardihood.

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All these queens are selected daughters of fine imported stocks, are reared in full colonies, and are fertilized in Carniola itself, where of course ONLY Carniolian bees exist. From these crosses bee-keepers may expect the best results which can be obtained through crossing any two distinct races.

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Prices three-fourths those of Imported Cyprians and Imported Syrians.

Though Palestine bees possess some valuable qualities common to Cyprians and Syrians, still, on account of their very bad temper and poor wintering qualities I cannot recommend them for general introduction. To fanciers, however, who desire them, I will say I can furnish as fine imported queens as are to be had in Palestine.

During five years experience in bee-culture in the Orient, three of which were passed there, I have neither seen any foul brood or sign of foul-brood, nor have I ever heard of its existence there. None exists in this portion of Germany, and having examined the aparies from which my Carniolans and Italians come, I can also testify as to their healthful condition.

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