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# THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL



"The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number."

VOL VIII, No. 16. BEETON, ONT., NOV. 15, 1892. WHOLE No. 324

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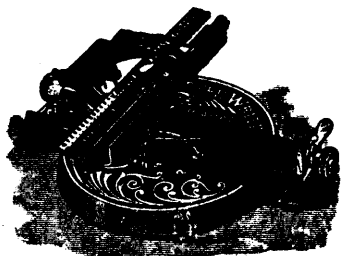
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Incorporated March 1886

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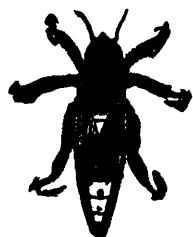
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"The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number."

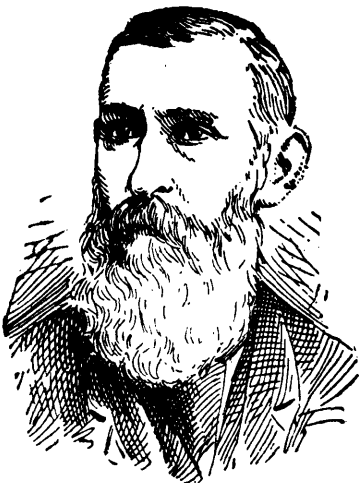
VOL VIII, No. 16. BEETON, ONT., NOV. 15, 1892. WHOLE No. 324.

OF THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Abner Pickett.

THE following sketch of Mr. Abner Pickett is furnished by a friend of his at our special request:—

The subject of our sketch resides in the township of Nassagaweya, county of Halton, and is about fifty years of age. He was born in the county where he now resides. His parentage



ABNER PICKETT.

was mixed English and Irish, and he partakes of some of the best qualities of both nationalities. He is firm in his adherence to right principles, and his own views of what he thinks and knows for himself, and is at the same time ardent in his sympathies and affec-

tions. He is a kind parent—firm in the government of his family, and courteous and kind to his friends. He is much respected in the county where he resides, and is an earnest, useful and influential worker in the church to which he belongs. He is an enthusiastic apiarist, and devotes much of his time and thought to finding out the best methods of bee culture, of which he has now had an experience of fifteen years in this, his favored pursuit. He is a careful student of literature relating to this work, having read "Quinby's Mysteries of Beekeeping," "A.B.C. of Bee Culture," *The American Bee Journal*, and *THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL* from the publication of its first number. He speaks very highly of the above publications and recommends them to all who wish to become proficient apiarists. He says he owes much to the information he has obtained from them in making him as successful as he is in the culture of bees. For several years after he began he met with much disappointment by the loss of many colonies, in his unsuccessful efforts to winter them, and in the losses by foul brood, so extensively experienced in the year 1884. He has, however, by perseverance, surmounted these difficulties, and has now one hundred and fifty colonies doing successful work, and producing honey that is extensively known and enquired for, and commands ready sale at good prices. He has for several years been a director of the Ontario Beekeeper's Association, of which he is now the vice-president. His attention has been principally turned to the best methods of producing extracted honey, and the manufacture of comb foundation. He also makes all his own

hives and fixtures. Mr. Pickett is a very modest man, but is a successful and rising apiarist, and is looked on as an authority in bee culture in this part of the country.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### A New Packing.

FOR the winter packing of hives on their summer stands, leaves cork, shavings, sawdust, etc., are sometimes expensive, are hard to come at, and sawdust especially is objectionable if there is much dampness, on account of its affinity for water. I have been using paper for some years with satisfaction. It is light, keeps well, does not get damp, and retains the heat,—not building paper wrapped around, and placed over the hives,—but surplus paper of any kind, such as old newspapers, catalogues, pamphlets, etc., of which there is often an abundance. I use some newspapers spread over the top and tucked around the sides, with the rest. Take a leaf at a time, crumple it in the hand so as to make as large a wad as possible. Squeeze it and it will retain its size when packing. It takes but little paper to make a bushel of wads, and but little time to make them. I pack between the cases in the usual way; for convenience I make sacks the right size to lay on top. There is no dust or dirt.

### SMALL ENTRANCES.

When zero weather comes I fill the entrances full of old newspapers, except about one half inch square, and leave it until late in the spring. If the bees want more room they remove some paper. I find they are quieter so; perhaps from the protection from changes of temperature. My winter loss has not averaged one per cent. for years.

### TRANSFERRING THEMSELVES.

From having bought bees in boxes, queens, etc., or for other reasons, it is often necessary to transfer—a sticky disagreeable job, attended with loss of honey, bees (young and old), time and often temper. It is a job I have turned over to the bees; they can do it, as well as many other things, better than I can. Having prepared the new hive with comb, or foundation, I make a five-eighths inch hole in the top board; over this I place the hive to be transferred, fasten it securely, stop all egress from it except through the above five-eighths inch hole, and do about my business. When the honey flow begins, the bees will move down into the new hive, and as soon as the last brood above hatches, the old hive can be removed. There will be some honey, a few bees and a lot of

nice comb. Set it a hundred feet or so from the apiary; arrange a small entrance, and let the bees clean it out. If possible, stack several hives on top of each other, with one entrance.

If I am to get a large share of the good things of this world, I can not spare the time necessary to do all these things. I must use short cuts and quick ways, and put my time in where it pays the best, owing to its uncertain returns. Honey production must be a side issue with all but a few; how to get the most money out of it, under these circumstances, is the question.

Under this head comes the consideration of

### SELF HIVERS.

I cannot afford to use from two to four weeks' time watching for swarms, and it does not pay to let them run off. The general idea is that self hivers require a lot of special appliances, considerable skill and extra expense, all of it on an already over-burdened business. This is not the case. It is very simple, and but little extra is required.

Prepare the new hive as for a swarm; raise up the old hive that is expected to swarm; place the new hive under it. Between them place a honey board, in which has been fitted a bee escape—any kind will do. If you do not use honey boards, use an escape board, first having put a few square inches of perforated zinc in it. If you don't use escapes, get some; they pay. Place a strip of zinc over the entrance to the new hive, and there you are.

When they swarm, the queen necessarily goes below, stays there, and when the swarm returns the new hive is occupied. Queen cells will be built above, which you can use if you need them. Their presence, or the absence of eggs, shows that a swarm has issued. If increase is wanted, remove the old hive to a new location; all the old bees and part of the young ones will constitute a booming swarm at the old location; place another new hive under the old one, at the new location, with the escape between, the young queen will go down to be fertilized, will occupy the lower portion, will not swarm again, because of so much room, and in time will give about fifty pounds of extracted honey in the upper part, which is about that much more than you will get if you put on supers.

The swarm at the old location will give the honey, especially if the old hive is left on it until lots of young bees have hatched out. See that they have surplus room.

If no increase is wanted, place empty supers between the hives, on top of the honey board;

in from ten days to two weeks remove the zinc across the entrance. By this time the young queens are out, have come down, and the best (old or young) is boss. If necessary, they can now go out and mate. No special mystery or expense about it. Of course there are minor points to be considered; these must be considered in regard to the peculiar conditions of each individual case. Self hivers, like bee escapes are simple, practicable, and have come to stay; that they will not work in every case is true, neither will escapes.

The circumstances and conditions under which the latter will work satisfactorily are now pretty well known, thanks mainly to the escape number of the *Review*. When we have had some more experience with hivers, perhaps friend Hutchinson will devote a number to them, and the varied experience thus collocated will put us well on our way to their intelligent use.

GEO. R. WELLER.

Berlin, Mo., Oct. 26th. 1892.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Illinois Beekeepers Association.

HAVING been present at the annual meeting of the above named body, held in Chicago, October 18th and 19th, I beg to send a few notes likely to be of interest to the readers of the C.B.J. The attendance was not large, though it was thought that its being held on the eve of the dedication of the World's Fair would have a tendency to draw beekeepers to the meeting. The president, Hon. J. M. Hambough, was in the chair. Mr. Frank H. Benton was present to represent the apicultural branch of the United States Department of Agriculture. Considerable time was occupied with discussion about the Illinois honey exhibit at the World's Fair. So far, no understanding had been reached with the authorities on the subject. The Association felt that without a grant of funds, it would be impossible to make such an exhibit as was desirable. It was about to pass a resolution to that effect when a deputation from the State Board of Agriculture appeared to confer with the Association in regard to the matter. After an exchange of views on the subject, the deputation requested the Association to put its wishes into definite shape, and retired to give an opportunity for doing so. The Association agreed to ask for an appropriation of one thousand dollars, and appointed a committee to meet the representatives of the State Board of Agriculture, clothing it with full powers to make

final arrangements. The matter was left in the committee's hands with a strong feeling of hopefulness in regard to the result.

A representative of the largest firm of honey dealers in Chicago brought the subject of adulteration before the meeting, and requested the passage of a resolution calling on the editors of Bee Journals to publish no quotations of the honey market from dealers who were not prepared to make affidavit that they did not and would not deal in honey adulterated with glucose or other material. According to this gentleman, the legitimate honey trade was immensely damaged by the manufacture and sale of the bogus article. The resolution asked for was promptly and unanimously passed, and the editors of Bee Journals present, Mr. Yorke, of the *A.B.J.*, and Mr. Hutchinson, of the *Review*, promised to do their utmost in carrying out the spirit of it.

Mr. Frank H. Benton gave an interesting *resume* of his travels and labors in Oriental countries, and expressed the opinion that beekeepers need not look for new discoveries of any consequence in regard to other and better races of bees than those now possessed. Personally, he thought *Apis Dorsata* would be no acquisition even if it could be acclimated. He spoke favorably of the Carniolans, but had nothing to say about the Punicis. He believed the strains of bees we already possessed were capable of more improvement. Mr. Benton looks bronzed and aged with his residence and travels in the eastern world. He is a clear, forcible speaker, a man of good judgment, and his large experience gives great weight to his opinions.

Various miscellaneous apicultural topics were discussed, a question box exhausted of its contents,—and a very pleasant, profitable time enjoyed. The Illinois Association now gets a yearly grant from the State of five hundred dollars, but the expenditure of it is limited to the publication of an annual report. The result is a voluminous publication of about one hundred pages, which is a monument to the pains-taking industry of the secretary, Mr. Stone. Those old-timers, Mr. M. M. Baldrige, of St. Charles, and Mr. George Thompson, of Geneva, were present. Dr. Miller, the Dadants, and many other representative Illinois beekeepers were absent. Mr. Newman was on hand. He is still feeble from his long sickness, but took part in the debates with much of his old vigor.

WM. F. CLARKE.

Guelph, Oct. 27, 1892.

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FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### Lambton Beekeepers.

**T**HE Lambton Beekeepers' Association met in the town of Petrolia on Thursday, October 20th. The beekeepers were late in getting there, consequently but little business was done in the forenoon. The president, Mr. L. Traver of Alvinston, called the meeting to order.

A letter was read from the sec-treasurer, Mr. W. E. Morrison, of Highgate, stating that on account of business and the exceedingly great distance, he would be unable to attend the meeting, and asking that another sec-treasurer be appointed in his place. Mr. Kitchin was consequently appointed secretary *pro tem*.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted, when the meeting was adjourned until after dinner.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The first business taken up was calling the roll of officers and members; then followed the election, of officers, which resulted as follows:—President, E. A. Jones, Kertch P.O.; vice-president, C. Boyd, Petrolia; sec-treasurer, J. R. Kitchin, Weidmann.

The advisability of having a board of directors was discussed, and it was decided that hereafter the L.B.K.A. have a board of directors, and that they and the other officers of the association constitute an executive committee. Messrs. Skeoch, of Corunna; Traver of Alvinston; Mowbray, of Sarnia; and D. Brown, of Petrolia; constitute the board of directors for the present year.

The committee appointed at the last meeting to endeavor to open up a honey market in the Northwest reported that nothing had been done. A very exhaustive discussion then followed upon the marketing of honey. Mr. Traver reported that a small syndicate had been formed in the village of Alvinston, and a part of the honey bargained for was to have been shipped to Manitoba; but owing to the recent bank failure there, they were now unable to carry the undertaking into effect.

The auditor's report showed a balance of seventeen dollars and seventy-five cents on hand. The grant from the Ontario Beekeepers' Association has been distributed among some of the agricultural societies in the county. The association has endeavored to procure from the several societies an amount equal to that given by the association over and above the one which they had already been giving for prizes in honey; but for some reason or other there has been a misunderstanding which was the cause

of considerable discussion. One member was heard to remark that the L. B. K. A. was getting to resemble the O.B.K.A., inasmuch as it had so much business to attend to that there was not enough time to spend in talking about bees.

After the business was transacted, the balance of the time was well spent in the exchange of ideas relative to that industrious little creature, the bee.

The next meeting will be held in the town of Sarnia, on the 19th of May, 1893.

J. R. KITCHIN, Sec.-Treasurer.

Weidmann, Ont., Nov., 1892.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### Civilization Versus Apiculture.

**T**HE axe of civilization cuts down the trees, and presto, the basswood honey is gone, the tulip honey is gone, and the game is gone; and the Indian and the beekeeper have a polite hint to go elsewhere. The Indian goes; the beekeeper looks ruefully after him, but thinks that, as for himself, he will hang on a little longer. Civilization puts the pasture lands under the plough; the flocks and herds "go west" like the poor Indian; likewise the helianthus and the fireweed, the thistle and the golden-rod, prepare to fold up their tents like the Arabs and silently steal away! Civilization brings in fertilizers and improved methods, "makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before"—all very fine; but, alas, those two blades of rank grass pinch out the white clover so that it has no place to spread its crystal banquet for the bee. Then, indeed, the beekeeper begins to wonder how his good prototype, "Lo, the poor Indian" is getting along out west, anyhow. But civilization is not done with her incursions. The relentless jade whispers to the farmers that so many fences are expensive and useless, and directly three-quarters of them disappear. No more the face of nature is mapped off with latitude lines and longitude lines of nodding wild flowers. The fence-rows were the Indian reservations of our bees, and the cruel white woman takes them away. To make a clean sweep she whispers again to the farmer, and says, "Now the fences are out of the way, why not slick up the roadsides, and exterminate the weeds that grow there?" "Sure enough," says the submissive farmer, and proceeds to run his mowing-machine up and down the roads two or three times each summer, while the beekeeper looks on with impotent wrath.

What are we going to do about it, brethren? go on the warpath with knives and tomshawks? pull out the axle pins of the car of progress, and break the axle? What shall we do? Shall we think to restore matters by scattering seeds, and introducing new honey plants? Where shall our new honey plants find a place to grow, pray tell, when the commons and pastures are all under plough? Shall we find a honey plant with vim enough to grow in the farmer's cultivated fields in spite of him? If we find it, will we be wicked enough to introduce it? If we are wicked enough to introduce it, will not the dogs of the law be after us? In regard to botanical efforts of all sorts, I think the faith of intelligent apiarists is getting weak. We have accomplished but little, and that little is spoken against; and in the immediate future we are likely to accomplish still less.

Is it giving away seed of alsike and buckwheat that we will place our hopes upon? Too costly; and our profits, either present or prospective, are not equal to the requirements. Moreover, while one beekeeper can largely increase the amount of buckwheat raised in a particular neighborhood, beekeepers as a whole cannot very largely increase the buckwheat average as a whole. The laws of demand and supply are going to regulate that in spite of us. And immense areas of country find buckwheat a plant which yields very little honey, save in exceptional years and at long intervals. In regard to alsike, matters are on a somewhat different basis. Alsike reciprocates with common clover—the more alsike the less clover—and it could be very largely increased if an advantage could be proved. Where farmers find alsike much the more advantageous of the two they will raise it—but where's that, pray? The clovers are wanted mostly as manure plants—nitrogen traps—and alsike can hardly compete with red clover in the amount of roots which it furnishes to rot in the soil?

Shall we look to the red clover as our help, and hope to modify its tubes, and so secure its treasures of nectar? That scheme is indeed alluring, and my name has been associated with it more or less. But I for one am not getting on very fast; and I hear of no one doing any better. I have a clover that bees can probe to the bottom, but it almost totally refuses to bear seeds; and the seedlings, when I get them, most of them backslide and become mere ordinary clovers. Furthermore, we don't know whether the clover insects are going to hold the fort like the potato bug, or whether they will let up after a while. They seem capable of preventing any honey, or any bloom either, on the clover.

At best our hope from this source is slender and distant.

Then how about alfalfa? No go, is to be feared, for moist climates—grows poorly, and the blossoms have no honey in them. Shall we look forward to the time when public and private plantations of trees will have to be made, and try to have honey trees preferred? Long while to wait. When the time comes it looks as though the pine would be planted, rather than the basswood and tulip, the oaks rather than the maples and gum trees, and the black walnut rather than the wild cherry. Agitation at the right time, by the right persons, might avail something toward having the right kind of trees planted; but how often is the proper time and the proper influence let slip! This anchor is rather too much like an anchor in Amsterdam, when the good ship is drifting on the rocks near by.

What else have to look to? There are the roadsides. We might get some basswoods planted along the roads if we tried hard; but not many, I fear, now the new methods have come in; be in the way of the farmers mowing-machine, and shade his border. "The blues," did I hear the editor say? Yes, this is a blue article; but when a fellow looks for a few moments through blue spectacles why not have them as blue as ever he can. You, Canadians, up there are one tribe, and we down here in Ohio are another tribe. Your tribe has not as yet suffered as much from the incursions of the "white woman" as ours has; but your turn is right at hand. She'll never be "asy" till she has the last honey weed exterminated and the last white clover supplanted by some better forage plant. And she'll hardly make haste to plant a basswood tree till she has the last old one down. There's no peace for us unless we flee to the mountains, where she cannot run her plough, else go to the alfalfa regions, else do—something desperate. Shall we do something desperate then? The "to bee" and "not to bee" seem a trifle inclined to hover around that question.

E. E. HASTY.

Richards, Ohio, Nov. 7th, 1892.

What was Joan of Arc made of?—She was Maid of Orleans.

Why is the letter "B" like a hot fire?—Because it makes oil Boil.

The *Ladies' Home Journal* is responsible for the statement that "to collect a pound of clover honey sixty-two thousand clover blossoms must be deprived of their nectar."

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### How I Manage Bees.

**S**IRS:—As it is nearly time to put bees away for winter, I will tell how I treat them. When cold weather seems to be settled, I put them in the cellar, but I do not stand them less than two feet from the cellar floor, it is too damp near the bottom. I leave the entrance wide open. Last spring we had nice warm weather in the first week of March, and some folks around here took out their bees and left them out.

Most of the bees around here had diarrhoea last winter; mine had it quite badly; so on the first of March I took them out of the cellar near noon, and let them have a good fly, and towards evening I put them back into the cellar. They were not taken out again till about April 15th, when the willows began to blossom, as they are not so inclined to rob if there is something for them to gather. Some around here have their bees out two or three weeks before mine are out; but mine generally swarm as soon as theirs. One neighbor had twenty five colonies last fall. He wintered some in the attic and some in a smoke house (he takes no bee papers), and this spring had two left.

After the bees have a good flight in the spring, I close the entrance to about half an inch, until the weather gets warmer and the hives more populous.

I hive the swarms on empty frames (I use the eight frame Wisconsin hive); and as soon as the bees are all in I put them on their permanent stands, placing the rear end four or five inches higher than the front, and they generally build the combs straight, as they start the combs in the upper back corner of the frame and work along it to the front. Second swarms I unite, first thoroughly smoking the one I wish to unite them with at the entrance. Any clean box will do to hive them in at first, and the next morning, after the bees are smoked you wish to unite them with, shake the swarm out of the box in front of the hive that is smoked, and drive them in with smoke. I have never seen any fighting, and they always did well. Mine are the common black bees.

About two weeks after a prime swarm is hived, I put a super on with starters in; when they have that about two-thirds filled, and I think they can fill another, a second is put on. I then raise the super up and slip the second between it and the hive. My first prime swarm, June 9, filled their hive and forty pounds in one-pound sections, and cast a very large swarm. My second prime swarm, June 17, gave me

forty-eight pounds of well-sealed sections, and have enough left to winter on.

I have never lost a swarm, by absconding, by this method. Yours, etc.,

JOHN M. SEILER.

(Hanbassen, Minn., Oct. 27, 1892.

### Bees on the Farm.

**T**HE keeping of bees is a minor industry of the farm, which is capable of large and profitable extension. The business has its ups and downs, like everything else, but we rarely have a season in which a careful and intelligent bee keeper will fail to secure some profit. It is the direct companion industry to fruit culture, and some of the most successful small farmers, whom we know, rely almost equally upon these two branches of work. To show the relative value of the apary to other branches of the farm, we may cite the case of a thrifty farmer whom we once visited. He was tilling about sixty acres of land, with diversified crops. The fields were clean and well cultivated, and the homestead showed evidences of prosperity. About five acres of the farm was occupied by orchard and small fruits.

"There," said the owner, "is where I make my money. I should be quite as well off in point of net income, if these five acres were all I possessed."

It was spring, and the orchard was in bloom. Upon the half-acre were a hundred stands of bees, and we heard a busy buzzing among the blossoms. "After all," said our friend, "these are my money makers, as well as my honey makers. They pay me more than everything else."

This is not an exceptional case. A hundred colonies of bees will often give a better net return, and with the investment of far less labor and capital than an ordinary fifty or sixty acre farm.

There is room for much expansion of this industry, for the production of honey is one of the things that certainly is not overdone. The public can be educated to the larger use of honey, and producers should make every effort to accomplish this. Not only is honey a delicious luxury for the table, but it is a useful concentrated food and has definite tonic effects. For children, especially, bread and honey would be better than bread and butter. It is more healthful and more economical as well. If bee men would use a uniform size of section it would facilitate the marketing of honey by increasing its popularity with market-men, and by sending out nothing, either in the comb or extracted, but what was clear, clean and

perfect, the demand among consumers would be stimulated.

There are few farms where at least a small number of colonies could not easily be kept, and an additional source of income provided, without any interference with the established routine. We wish that the matter might receive general attention, and the keeping of bees become as regular a portion of our farm economy as the keeping of poultry is now.

Provide a good store of food for winter, and then protect your hives from the weather. Bees are just like other live stock—they will consume a greater amount of store for fuel when exposed to severe cold and unbroken winds.

Study the bees. You can learn much by watching them, and the more you know about their ways the greater success you will have in handling them.—*Rural Canadian*.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### Yellow Bees.

WE cannot at this day pick up a Bee Journal, but about the first thing that meets one's eyes is an advertisement something like this, "Golden Italians," or "Five-Banded Golden Italians," etc., etc. Now, are we not, in the race for color and beauty, leaving behind some of the more desirable traits of the Italian bee? I am aware that these five-banded breeders claim that they do not lose sight of other merits, such as honey gathering, breeding up at the proper time to catch the honey flow, etc.; but I fear their claims cannot be proven. I will admit that these yellow bees are pretty to look upon, and the beekeeper who sees them wants them; and the queen breeder, if he wishes to satisfy his customer, must send him a yellow queen that will produce yellow workers. But is not this all wrong? Is it not just a sort of craze we have gone into, that we all want these bees that are pleasing to the eye? I should very much like to have bees that are pretty and yellow in preference to the homely leather colored; I mean, provided the former were as good in every way as the latter. But, alas, are they? I should like to tell you that our yellowest bees are the ones that gather the largest crops of honey; but when I come to think of it the colonies that secure the most honey are those that show only three yellow bands, and these bands are not of the bright golden color, but rather dull or brownish,—just about the color of the workers that are produced from an imported queen.

Does some cue say. "I have not tried yellow

queens from a reliable breeder?" If so, I will say that we (my brother and I) have purchased tested queens from a breeder whose integrity no one who knows him would doubt, and one who does not advertise five-banded, etc. Yet the bees are as pretty as any one need care to look at. None of the bees from this strain, however, have equalled, as honey gatherers, those of the imported strain. I believe that in time we shall have a yellow race of bees that will be as good as the best, but let us not be in too great haste. We must not expect this to come about in a year or two. Our finest strains of cattle and horses, as well as of other live stock, have not been bred up to the high standard now attained in a few years. It takes time.

I would not discourage those that are breeding for fine colors; but let us not encourage it too much by asking a queen breeder for the yellowest queen he can send us when ordering.

Before ordering a queen, let us write to the breeder and ascertain by what method he rears his queens. If he will not give his method, write to some other breeder, and never order a queen reared by any method that does not insure a perfectly developed queen.

I am no admirer of black bees, but for honey gathering qualities I would give more for a black queen, perfectly developed, than for the best strain of Italian, provided the latter has been in the least neglected at any time during development.

I would state here, however, that we must not expect a queen that has travelled a long distance in the mails to be as good as she was when taken from the hive in the breeder's yard. She may be, but it is the exception rather than the rule.

For this reason we should rear queens from her as soon as possible, and test their progeny before condemning the queen or the one from whom we purchased her.

Let us rear our queens by the very best methods. Let us breed for all desirable qualities and beauty along with them; but if anything must be left out let it be the fourth and fifth bands rather than some of the more desirable traits.

S. E. MILLER.

Bluffton, Mo., Oct. 25, 1892.

The A.B.J. says that Henry Alley sounds a warning against introducing queens producing five banded bees. "As surely as you do it, your apiaries will be ruined, and you will soon give up keeping bees, in disgust."

The CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL is a safe and reliable authority for Canadian Beekeepers.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Standard for Italian Bees.

**A**LMOST a year ago the International Convention at Albany attempted to fix a standard for Italian bees. They, perhaps, pretty much all agreed that it was desirable to have one; but what should that standard be? They had a rather stormy time of it, but finally settled upon the following:—Italian bees must adhere to the combs when properly handled, and not cluster about or rush around and fall to the ground. They must have three bands of a color ranging from golden yellow to leather color; they must be quiet when well handled; and, in time of scarcity, must place their honey in a compact shape.

Schedule marking in a scale of one hundred points:—

Comb building.....	10	points.
Honey-gathering qualities.....	40	"
Prolificness.....	20	"
Wintering.....	15	"
Gentleness.....	10	"
Color.....	5	"

Just here we may pause and enquire, why do we want a standard at all? We can consider the subject better if the object is understood. There are about three objects to be attained. We want a standard, 1st as a test of purity. What are the marks of a pure Italian bee? 2nd. As a gauge of quality. We want to breed the best bee, and hence we want to know what points are desirable in a bee for business, and their relative value. 3rd. We want a standard for judging bees exhibited at fairs.

As a standard of purity, the one adopted is perhaps correct, but incomplete. They should have put it "three or more bands," etc. As a criterion of quality, it is vague and questionable. For judging bees at fairs it is utterly impracticable.

It is noticeable that in the schedule of purity, color is given only five. Yet we judge of their purity chiefly by color, and we breed to that more than to anything else. The different strains are known by color, and it is vehemently claimed that the best qualities accompany this or that color of bee. So far as intrinsic value is concerned, there is no reason why color should score anything. But as a test of purity alone it is worth more than five points, and why it should be rated so low I do not understand. True, what color of strain is best is a disputed point; but in declaring that they must have three bands ranging in color from golden yellow to leather color, it was intended to satisfy all claims.

Wintering is given fifteen points. Why? Other things being equal, won't one bee winter as well as another? That is my belief. Some will build up more rapidly than others in the spring; but that is due to the same traits that make them better honey gatherers. Either one of these excellences always accompanies the other; and the trait or traits I would sum up in the term "thrifths." That and color should be given about equal prominence. Gentleness should give way to quietness. The scoring thus would stand about as follows:—

Color and markings.....	30	points.
Thrift.....	30	"
Prolificness.....	20	"
Quietness.....	10	"
Gentleness.....	5	"
Comb building.....	5	"

On judging by this schedule, the different points will have to be carefully balanced. For thrift and prolificness I am not afraid to put my hybrids beside anybody's Italians. They are, in fact, better breeders take the season through. They do not crowd the brood nest with honey, and they breed later in the fall as a rule.

The markings need to be carefully noted. Regular hybrids resemble Italians so closely in color as often to deceive the most expert. They generally have the three yellow bands, but not always so clear and so plainly marked. Color and markings must be very pronounced to guard against error in this respect. Quietness is an excellent determining point. Hybrids may adhere to the combs pretty well at first except as one darts into your eye now and then; but if kept disturbed very long will go to running around and crowding into the corners. Italians are distinguishable by their generally quiet demeanor.

But assuming that a standard is or should be settled upon, what will it amount to after all? Breeders will still go on breeding to color, advertising, puffing—aye, and selling too—their stock, paying comparatively little attention to anything in the schedule, yet honestly claiming everything. Sometime, perhaps, the different strains, with their peculiar points and claims, may be clearly defined and recognized. Whether the points of value obviously accompany any one type, or the difference be so slight that every strain may have its advocates, color and markings, and possibly size of the bee, will ever remain the standards of judgment and value. If any one type is really superior to all others, beekeepers will probably find it out, sooner or later, and that strain will acquire the

ascendency, as Poland China hogs have now the ascendency over other breeds of swine.

I believe it to be easier to fix and maintain a standard or standards for bees on exhibition, simply because more imperatively needed. Even if necessary to settle upon one for that purpose, that might not be the most correct, still it should be done. To be sure, as compared with the dollar and cent side of the matter, the question as to what type of bee gets the premiums at fairs is of small moment. If the fancy dressed bees must carry off the honors, and the dull coated ones make the money, the fancy ones with their honors must go to the wall. Beauty must give way to utility in business. But the exhibition of bees at fairs is no unimportant item. We should keep our industry before the public in every practicable way—to advertise our business and educate the people, and to exhibit at fairs, is among the best ways to do this. For this purpose we should have more clearly defined criteria of judgment in all departments than we have at present. For judging bees at fairs either schedule of points given above is worth about zero, for very obvious reasons. It is an easy matter to pass upon Clydesdale horses. They are a heavy draught breed; bone and muscle are everything, with the immense mane, tail and fetlocks, as incidentals that have grown up with the breed in its northern clime, but usually accompany the main points. But we cannot judge of thrift, prolificness, etc., with bees confined in a glass cage. In this case, if in no other, color is the leading factor. Are the markings of the bees, as the markings of the Clydesdale, the incidental concomitants of points of actual merit? I believe the majority of beekeepers who have thought upon the matter at all think they are. But what type or strain possesses the points of excellence in the largest degree? That is the rub. In a draft of a code of rules, etc., for judging apiarian exhibits at fairs which I prepared and had published in the *American Bee Journal* of February 25th last, in order to get the views of others, I, with some hesitation, prescribed this: "Three-banded bees should be given the preference over four or five-banded, and the darker over the lighter colored."

I explained that I asserted that standard because the prevailing verdict was in favor of the darker colored Italians as bees for business. I hesitated because I knew that some at least would not agree to that. I incline to think that the darker colored will make us more honey and money than the golden Italians, and I believe that, outside of the breeders of light-color-

ed bees, a majority of connoisseurs think so. But quite a number dissented from the standard I had set up. Some decidedly favored the yellow types, while others proposed the adoption of two standards. The proposition looks plausible, but it would be difficult even then to settle upon an exact standard for each class, for there are as many different shades of opinion as there are shades of bees. To suit all, we would have to divide them up about as follow:—

- Golden three-banded Italian Bees.
- Leather-colored " " "
- Golden four-banded " " "
- Leather-colored " " "
- Golden five-banded " " "
- Leather-colored " " "

Making six different strains of Italians, to say nothing of Albinos. It all begins to look funny. But when we reflect that we have four breeds of dark-faced sheep, all derived from one original stock, five varieties of Leghorn fowls and about one hundred and fifty of fowls all told; and when we remember that the lower we descend in the scale of animal existence, the more numerous are the variations, it is not wild to venture that we may sometime, not many years hence, have that many or more distinct breeds of Italian bees. But we will hardly anticipate the results by arbitrary distinctions now. Suppose we venture to recognize the two classes. Now then, the best we can do, I think, will be about as follows:—Let those two classes be shown as the dark and the yellow Italians respectively.

We should then have the dark Italians, which must show three distinct yellow bands; and the yellow Italians, which must show four or more distinct yellow bands; and allow entire liberty in judging of the particular shade of yellow. The following schedule of points could be used for either class:—

Size of bee.....	30
Color and markings.....	30
Brood and queen, each.....	10
Quietness.....	5
Style of comb.....	5
Style of hive.....	10

There should be a fair quantity of brood in all stages, or as near as possible. By style of comb is meant straightness, smoothness of surface, etc.; by style of hive, neatness of construction, finish, etc.

This schedule prepared for bees on exhibition comes about as nearly a correct one for breeding purposes, I think, as one could be made.

GEO. F. ROBINS.

Mechanicsburg, Ill., November, 1892.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

## Honey Quotations and Other Matters.

I AM very much pleased to learn that it has been decided to have a representative at the World's Fair for six months or more,—one who will look to the bee-keeping interests. I was at one time afraid it would be otherwise, as one high in authority in these matters stated that if it were not for the granulation of honey it would not be necessary to have any one in charge of the honey exhibit at all. I am not afraid or ashamed to own that I tried for the position, which has been awarded to Mr. Pringle. I could have had some one else to press my case, and did have many others, according to the statements of Mr. Awrey. I did not seek the position from any pleasure I expected to derive from attending the World's Fair. I sought it because no one is more interested in getting a good market for Canadian honey than I am, and I intended to do my very best in that direction. To attend an exhibition for three weeks becomes intensely tiresome; how would it be for months with wife and family hundreds of miles away. Then the change cannot be expected to be a healthy one. I expect to see the World's Fair anyway. I understand many others sought for the position. Few, if any, could have been there six months; so let us rejoice that a good representative will be there for so long.

I believe the demand for honey could be increased were we to keep it before the public eye more. One way in which it could be done would be to have it before the eye of the public in market quotations. All the numerous daily, weekly and monthly papers, which quote other products, might surely be induced to quote honey. Can we not take some steps in this direction at the coming meeting of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association?

I am quite pleased at the criticism of W. F. Clarke, and pleased that in both the *Montreal Witness* and *CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL* the readers have the article from which I quoted at hand, and they can now set themselves right.

"GIVE CREDIT."

Occasionally our Bee Journals and other periodicals rap one another over the knuckles for not giving "due credit." Some of the Bee Journals have gone so far as to credit one another for articles quoted. It will now be in order to give the writers of the articles due credit. We have a right to be considered, have we not? I notice Bro. Hutchinson neglects our rights occasionally. We, as writers, are not thin-skinned; but give us "due credit" as well as the Journals.

R. F. HOLTEBMAN.

Brantford, Ont.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

## Cleaning up Honey Comb.

**D**ARK was the night; cold blew the winds, and the rain came pouring down. Methinks I hear the merry bee within her winter cell.

Cold and bleak November, you are here,—the successor of lovely October, who wore the golden coat. The month of November might be termed the end of the season for the apiarist in this locality, and the beginning of the season as well; for in this month we usually remove the bees from their summer stands and put them in their winter quarters, and that about completes the work of November. As the various methods of wintering have been discussed, *pro* and *con*, in late issues of the C.B.J. (and I am sure to the great benefit of many), it is useless for me, a greenhorn, to make any remark, as I think all the best methods (so far as we know) have been told, and that in very plain language, by men who do not hide their knowledge behind the iron door, and then put the key in their pockets and walk away. The way that funny fellow across the line does to get his combs that have been extracted cleaned up! Take your candle from under the half bushel, friend Gates, and give the boys some light. I found the hat in your remarks in the C.B.J. of Oct. 15, page 218, and it appears to fit me well with regard to getting the combs cleaned up. But then, perhaps, this funny fellow had partaken too freely of the good things prepared for the ministers, when he wrote that funny letter, and got an attack of billiousness as the result, and thought he was nowhere unless he tried to sit down on some one. Perhaps I am wrong in what I say. If so, I am prepared to apologize. But I want Mr. Gates to remove that half bushel, and give us light in the matter of having the combs cleaned up after finishing extracting, as this matter may be of benefit to more than myself.

I must say, sir, that the columns of your *JOURNAL* are getting nearer to perfection at every issue, and long may it live; and you, also, to teach me, and others like me, how to manage the apiary, not only in winter, but in summer, too. I intend to winter one dozen colonies on their summer stands this winter, for the first time. I mean to pack them in outside cases, used in spring after setting them out of the cellar. If I am spared to be able to write, I will give the result next spring.

Hoping we will all meet and have a jolly good time at Walkerton at our annual meeting.


Yours truly,

W. J. BROWN.

Chard, November 1st, 1892.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

**Foul Brood.**

 WISH to discuss two or three points raised by Mr. Pringle in his letter republished in the C.B.J., page 202.

Mr. Pringle asks the following questions:—"If the queen is diseased, and the workers are diseased with the germs of foul brood, communicable by them, how is the mere putting of the diseased queen and bees on foundation going to prevent the disease breaking out as soon as they begin raising brood in the new combs."

There is no evidence on record showing that a diseased colony, having a diseased queen, has ever yet been cured by merely being compelled to build new comb in a clean hive. So far as is known at present, nothing short of requeening will render a cure possible in such a case. If it is argued that since the transferring cure is always effectual, therefore there are no diseased queens, I reply that the transferring cure is not always effectual there are failures, but the advocates of this method often hold to their theory with a tenacity so nearly bordering on fanaticism, that they seek for a cause for the failures anywhere else than in the diseased queen. Some queen dealers have persuaded themselves, and have tried to persuade others, that the queen never transmits the disease because, as they say, they have never known such a case to happen. Writing of the danger of queens carrying the disease, Mr. Chas. F. Muth, of Cincinnati, Ohio, says:—"I had ample proof of it in several instances, when I did not wish to give up a fine queen from a diseased colony, introduced her into a healthy one, and created a new trouble." Similar testimony from several other respectable observers might be cited, but, being well known, Mr. Muth's statement as to what he has seen, will be accepted by most readers on this side of the Atlantic. All queens in foul-broody stocks are not diseased. As the result of dissection, a German scientist says he found three diseased out of twenty-five. Cheshire also dissected many queens, and found some of them diseased, but he says "a majority perhaps are not." Mr. Pringle says:—"We impeach not the scientist or discredit the microscope." When he argues that there are no diseased queens or workers, he tacitly does both. With the evidence now before the public no well-informed beekeeper should any longer doubt that the disease may be transmitted by the queen, the workers and the drones.

Mr. Pringle asks:—"Why are infected swarms from diseased colonies cured by merely

putting them into clean hives on comb foundation?" and he answers the question as follows:—"Simply because they use up the whole of the infected honey they carried with them in making wax and drawing out foundation, instead of giving it to young brood."

It is not denied by any one that the infection may and sometimes does get into the cells of pollen and honey, and it is admitted that in this way the infection may be taken into the chyle stomach, and in due course may be given in the "bee pap" to healthy brood. But of what does the infection consist? To read the statements of some writers one would be led to infer that it must be like a perfume, permeating every particle of food in the hive. These writers say that even a single bee load is certain to start the disease. They seem to forget that, if their contention is true, every larva in a diseased hive in early spring would in turn become diseased and die, because all are then fed from the same stores; but this does not happen. Such teaching arises from a misapprehension of the nature of the infecting agent. Mr. Pringle does not belong to this class of writers. He admits that the infection consists of germs. These germs are either in the form of fully grown plants—bacilli, or the seeds of these plants—spores. Now I wish to ask Mr. Pringle what becomes of these micro-organisms when the infected honey is, as he says, all used up in comb building? If, like Mr. J. A. Green, he should say that they are digested with the honey, and thus there is an end to them, I answer, no. It is not a matter of hypothesis, but an observed fact, that neither the fluids of the stomach, nor the digestive act, destroy either the bacilli or their spores. It is a fact, proven by the uniform testimony of competent observers, that the infecting organisms are very plentiful in the chyle stomachs of diseased bees. Since such is the case, I would ask Mr. Pringle further, is there not a probability, amounting almost to a certainty, that some of these organisms would become mixed with the brood food, and would be given to the larvae, even if the diseased nurse bees were fed on honey and pollen free from infection? It is not sound reasoning to say that because water poured from a vessel tainted with ink is found to be discolored, therefore the fountain from which the vessel was filled must of necessity have contained the same impurity. It is equally bad logic to say that because larvae become diseased on food prepared in diseased chyle stomachs, therefore the honey and pollen used in preparing the food must of necessity have contained the infection. I concede that in the system of cure



followed by Mr. McEvoy the disease does not always continue to be propagated in this way by the diseased nurse bees. There is a reason for this fact, but it is not the one given by Mr. Pringle, Prof. Cook, Mr. Jones and others who think with them, on this point. When we have Mr. Pringle's answers, it will be in order to discuss the true explanation, and I trust we shall then be enabled to agree upon more reasonable cause for the disappearance of the disease, when the bees are transferred to empty frames, than "simply because they use up the whole of the infected honey they carried with them in making wax and drawing out foundation, instead of giving it to young brood."

Referring to the statement of an English beekeeper that with him "drugs proved useless," Mr. Pringle says in effect that on this side of the Atlantic the fact that drugs prove useless "has been multiplied indefinitely." If such cases are so numerous "over here," will Mr. Pringle please mention some of them, where drugs failed, when the directions were strictly followed. If he undertakes to furnish many cases, I think he will find that in making the above sweeping assertion, he unconsciously drifted into rather an extravagant hyperbole.

S. CORNEIL.

Lindsay, 2nd Nov., 1892.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### Beekeepers' Reports.

MR. THOMAS MOORE, of Newport, writes:—"I may say I have given a great deal of attention to the care of bees, and always found the C.B.J. very interesting and instructive."

The eighteenth annual meeting of the Vermont Beekeepers' Association will be held in the city of Burlington, on Dec. 28th and 29th, 1892. All interested in apiculture are earnestly requested to be present. As a beekeepers' association we know of no state lines, but will gladly welcome all who come regardless of nationality. Programme giving full particulars will shortly be published. All desiring the same will have them forwarded by addressing H. W. Scott, 125 Brooklyn street, Barre, Vt.

MR. O. B. BARROWS, of Marshalltown, Iowa, writes us:—"Last year our bees stored generally of so-called honey dew; but the first of February they commenced to have bee diarrhoea. A great many crawled out and died on the cellar floor. There was a very offensive odor from them. When put out, about April 1st, they were greatly reduced in vitality and numbers. For six weeks the sun only shone

one or two days in a week, and the bees would fly out, become chilled, and dropped dead. We lost more than half by spring dwindling, and many of the colonies, which did not dwindle entirely out, were so weak that it took them until the honey flow was over to get themselves built up. The result was that in this part of the country we did not get more than one-eighth of the ordinary crop of surplus, and many of the swarms did not come off till the honey flow was nearly past. The result is that many of the new swarms, which had not been fed well, starved, so that next spring will see this part of the country with a light stock of bees."

We are pleased to hear from friend Barrows, and trust that he will favor us more frequently with news from his locality.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### New Bee-Keeping Patents.

THE following is the list of patents issued to Nov. 1st, 1892, from the United States Patent Office, Washington, D.C.:

Combined measure and funnel, to D. T. Holt, Harold, Texas. This consists essentially of a measure of any capacity provided with a funnel at its lower end, and grooves at the opposite inner sides thereof. A plate is detachably held in the grooves, and a rod which passes through the said plate carries a stopper at its lower end, the rod extending to the top of the measure to be operated, whereby the rod can be detached from the measure by removing the said plates from the grooves, and the measure may then be cleaned. This is specially adapted for use in filling receptacles with honey and other similar liquids, in that there is no waste due to numerous transfers.

Bottle closure, to O. Ollendorf, Bonn, Germany. This consists of a catchous cap, made small at the top and adapted to be pulled over the mouth of a bottle containing liquids to be used on the table, whereby ready access may be had thereto, and yet foreign substances may be excluded therefrom when the bottle is not in active use.

### Treatment of Honey for Shipment.

MR. ALLEN PRINGLE, Ontario Superintendent of Honey Exhibits, advises Canadian exhibitors of comb honey at the Chicago exhibition as follows:—

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

MR. EDITOR,—As the cold weather is at hand, I beg (pending fuller advice) to remind all intending exhibitors of comb honey at Chicago next summer, that the comb honey should be kept in a warm, dry place, till time of shipment.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

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12 months	10 00	15 00	20 00	25 00	40 00	75 00

**Publishers CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL,  
BEETON ONT.**

**EDITORIAL.**

Before putting your bees away ascertain that their surroundings are perfectly dry.

o o o

We are very sorry to learn that Dr. Miller has been a little under the weather, but hope ere this he may have fully recovered.

o o o

We appreciate the kindness of so many of our American friends in forwarding articles for our columns. They will all appear in due time.

o o o

We expect by the next issue of the C.B.J. that our president, Mr. Gemmill, will be able to inform us when our annual meeting will be held.

o o o

If you have a friend who is a beekeeper, you cannot do him a greater kindness than have a copy of the C.B.J. forwarded to him. Send us his name and we will attend to the rest.

o o o

Now is the time when it will be easy to secure some of your friends as subscribers for the C.B.J. Write to us for terms to agents, also for list of premiums offered. They will interest you.

In correspondence with Mrs. Jennie Atchley, she says: "We are having some very rainy weather down here just now. It is turning somewhat cooler, but the bees are still gathering a little honey. I expect to be very busy till I get moved, which will be about Christmas.

o o o

**ERRATA.**—One or two errors have occurred in our biography of Mr. Wm. J. Brown, published in the C.B.J. of Nov. 1st. 1st par. 3rd line, for "in the village of Watertown, Glengarry Co., Ont.," read "Martentown, Glengarry Co." etc. Same paragraph, last line, for "French invasion," read "French rebellion."

o o o

In our issue of October 1, on page 205, in the article by Mr. W. Scott, of Wooler, an error crept in. Instead of reading "then the cover is raised four inches all around," it should read "then the cover is raised one-quarter inch all round;" and, further down, "no special ventilation" should read "special ventilation."

o o o

We notice in a correspondence from friend Biggar, of Nebraska, that he is coming to join the happy army of Ontario beekeepers, and will take up his residence in the Niagara Peninsula. We welcome friend Biggar to our midst, and hope, at our next annual meeting, to have the pleasure of shaking hands. He brings with him fifty colonies of Nebraska bees.

o o o

We observe that *Gleanings* refers to its extract from friend Fitz-Hart's article on Punicus by reminding its readers of the scoring he once received on their account. That he was right in his estimate of them nobody disputes, and it is not all unlikely that (as he states) he "saved some of the friends from investing early in the season in some very undesirable bees."

o o o

We notice by advertisement in another column, that the late firm of E. L. Gould & Co., of Brantford, has been compelled by increase of its business to extend its connections, and now assumes the name and style of "The Gould, Shapley & Muir Co. (Ltd.)"

We paid their establishment a visit on Saturday last, and found everything humming. They are erecting a large factory two hundred feet long by forty wide, which they will occupy early in the spring.

o o o

It is now time that the bees were being placed in winter quarters, as the cold weather is here. We had a visit with friend Holtermann to his cellar, a few days ago, and the neat way in which he has an hundred or more colonies stored away in one corner is quite surprising. Should any of our readers visit Brantford it will pay them to call on friend Holtermann who, by the way, is always so willing to entertain any of his apiarian friends and impart what knowledge he has in his possession.

o o o

"And now the *American Bee Journal* has gone to calling names—calls me a 'Stray-Strawer.'"—*Gleanings*.

He didn't do anything of the kind. We know better. He called you "the Stray-Stawing Doctor." But what's the odds, so long as he didn't call you too late for dinner. He might have called you the stray-sawing, or the sway-stawing, or the stay-strawing, or the sway-stawing, or the straw-swaying, or the say-strawing, or the stray-sawing. The fact is, he knew you had strayed into the pastime to stay and straw; and he got it out the best way he could; and we don't care a straw if he did.

o o o

Mr. E. E. Hasty, of Richards, Ohio, favors us with a very timely and interesting article on the apparently hostile conditions which the progress of civilization is opposing to the industry of the beekeeper and to the limitation of area to which it is evidently tending to confine the operations of his *proteges*. Mr. Hasty appears to think that his "white woman," as he calls her, has confined her operations up to date within the boundaries of our kinsfolk across the line, where she flourishes her besom along the hedge-rows and by the roadsides with a persistent activity and a *sic volo sic jubeo* disposition which no recalcitrant beekeeper dare withstand. In that respect, however, Mr. Hasty is a little in error, though naturally so,

as a result of the general impression which prevails across the line—and which in some respects, especially as to the ratio of population and area, may be correct enough,—that the conditions are essentially different in this part of the continent from what they are in that part of it in which his lines are cast. But all the same his "white woman" is putting in her work just as steadily, and with just as much persistence and perseverance, and she has every municipal and village corporation at her back, though they are perhaps not as actively co-operative as she might desire. Within our municipal limits she wages war with all the valuable though humbler nectar-bearing plants with which she comes in contact. As there so here, everything in the shape of cover for our pets and their provision is being rudely and persistently obliterated. Our old-fashioned rail fences are giving way to the sinuously insidious and invisible though not intangible horrors of the barbed wire fence, which can cover no innocent thistle blossom from the fierce rays of a midsummer sun and upon which no stray worker would dare to alight without danger of instant incineration. Our fields are literally garnished and swept of everything that can attract the attention of the little busy bodies and pay them for long flights to and from their populous quarters. Our roadsides are beginning to be industriously cultivated by station masters and railway employes in the interest of the potato-bug and other equally noxious pests, until at length it is getting to be a question whether or not we shall have to pack up our traps and our hives, and follow poor Lo out to his breezy plains and into his bosky dells and solitudes, where the hum of the bee may once more harmonize its cadences with the sibilant rivulet, the song of the chick-a-dee-dee and the murmuring of soft summer zephyrs amid the foliage of deciduous giants. No, there will soon be nothing left for us to do but to "fold our tents like the Arabs and as quietly steal away."

Now is the time to remember that no more interesting matter can be procured for a winter evening's entertainment than that afforded by the C. B. J.

### Presentation.

There are few men connected with the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association—in fact, we may say there are none—who have deserved so much from its members for his untiring labors in connection with its organization and sustentation than Mr. Robert McKnight of Owen Sound. Although Mr. McKnight's experience as a bee-keeper has not been of many years standing, he has, nevertheless, been the leading spirit of the Bee-Keepers' Association ever since its formation, and has filled some very important positions in connection with it. He has been a writer of some merit in connection with the *Canadian Farmer*, in which Journal he had charge of the department of apiculture. He has filled the office of



ROBERT MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND.

Sec. Treasurer of the O.B.K.A. with much credit to himself and advantage to the association, and was appointed one of the commissioners at the Colinderies, where the magnificent display of honey was due in a great measure to his efforts.

We are consequently glad to know that Mr. McKnight's services have at length been recognized by the association in the presentation to him of a valuable gold watch, not so much on

account of its intrinsic value, but merely as a token of the estimation in which he is held both personally and professionally by the members of that body. It bears the following appropriate inscription: "Presented to Robert McKnight, Esq., by the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association in appreciation of efficient services rendered to the association." We trust Mr. McKnight may live long, as he says, "to wear with pride and pleasure this expression of the good will of a society of men with whom it has been my good fortune to act in harmony ever since our association has been organized."

### A Rattling Good Thing.

The *STAR Almanac* of Montreal, just coming out, is really the best Almanac in the world; 400 pages and 6 colored maps. Think of it! We believe the best way to be sure of getting a copy is to order it through a newsdealer now.

Some years ago a swarm of bees located in Col. G. W. Wells' carriage house, going in at a knot hole. At his request we dislocated the bees, and found on taking off the outside boards that they had filled a space between the weather boards and lining three and a half by four feet and four inches in thickness with solid sheets of comb, but while there was probably one third of the comb filled with brood there were not two pounds of honey in the combs; this was on October 18, 1892, and the house surrounded with various kinds of nectar bloom, and about a bushel of bees to gather nectar if there is any in the flowers. We thought of putting a Kodak to work after the outer boards were stripped off, but were reminded of the fate of a former picture taken under somewhat similar circumstances, that went to adorn as a frontispiece in a somewhat noted publication, for which we spent considerable money and never received a cent, and the picture was not taken. The bees we have hived but will have to feed to keep them alive.—*Rural Californian.*

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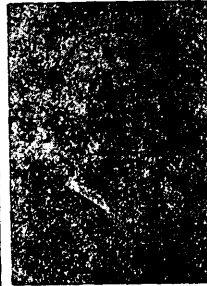
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## TO OUR AGENTS.

WE address these few lines to our agents to thank them for the interest they have taken in the C.B.J. During the past eight months, and for the energy which a few have already displayed in securing subscribers for us. Now that the fall fair season is here, we would like to secure a representative at each fair, one who will take subscriptions for the C. B. J. and to whom we will pay a liberal commission. We trust to receive a hearty response from all who attend these fairs. We will send sample copies free to any address our agents may send us. This will save them the trouble of carrying a large bundle of JOURNALS with them on the train, etc. All who wish to represent the C. B. J. at their own or neighboring fairs should communicate with us at once, giving dates, post office addresses, and, where possible, the names of the secretaries of the fairs they may attend. Experience is not necessary many bright young man or woman can make a nice little sum of money by representing us at their local fairs. We wish to secure at least 1500 new subscribers this fall; and to do this we ask the co-operation of all well wishers.



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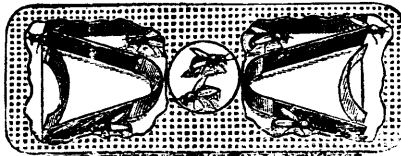
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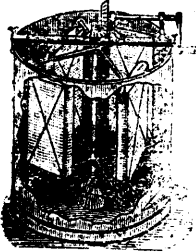
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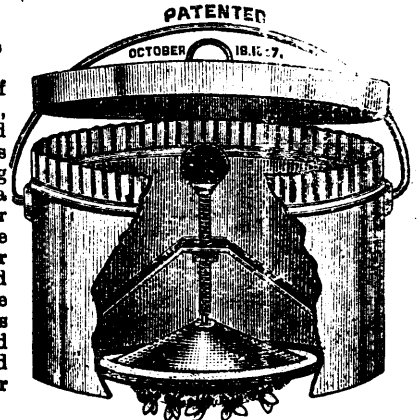


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