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CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

IV

NEW SERIES
VOL. III, No. 3.

BRANTFORD, ONT., SEPT., 1896.

WHOLE No.
33

Many of our readers will be amused to see the way some of our correspondents appear to resent the Thistle Honey. idea of securing thistle honey. We have yet seen the part of Ontario in which thistles cannot be found. Thistle honey is of very good quality and as long as they grow we will not object to our bees availing themselves of the sweetness they contain.

Caring for Comb Honey.

Next to plenty of comb honey in the market, is the knowledge of how to care for it after the bees have done their part in making their keeper a nice saleable article. These days of low prices and close competition, nothing will pay the apiarist more than to care for what comb honey his bees produce for him, so that when it comes upon the market it may have the most inviting appearance which it does when first completed by the bees. As comb honey is very largely a luxury, the more inviting it is in appearance, the more ready sales will be made, and the better price it will bring, while there is very little more work, if any, required in putting a market article which will please the eye and therefore win for itself a higher price, than in putting an article on the market which is so inferior, that it requires weeks of talk and hard work to get something that will not sell itself. The amount of work that it takes to produce an inferior article, there is another which works evil to everyone who produces a nice article: Mr. A takes his honey to market after it has stood on the shelves till it is dingy with the soil of the shelves, selling over it for a month after it has become in its snowy whiteness to be taken from the hive; then he puts it up in

boxes and cases having a slovenly appearance, which, even though the honey were first-class, which it is not, although it may be so in quality, would detract from its inviting qualities so that a nimble purchaser would not be found. Next he goes out with a determination to sell it for what it will bring, and, as it is not put up in the way an enterprising man would put it up, every dealer who is asked to buy knows that the price it will bring can be made very low, if he is a little slow in making offers, for the man who does not put up his product in the best shape, is always the man who will not hold out very long for a high price; thus, through his shiftlessness and lack of ability in the different points which would have made his honey a desirable thing, he is led to take up with a price which is often not enough to cover the cost of production, and is continually telling of how the amount of work required to get a little money, while it never enters his head that he is the one who is to blame for the state of affairs which he finds. A few days later Mr. B goes to the same market. What a contrast between his honey and that of A's! B's honey is snow white, stored in bright clean sections which are nicely packed in attractive shipping crates. He has been congratulating himself on how the grocery men will be pleased with his honey and pay him a fancy price for it, but when he arrives at the market, he finds he has to compete with A's honey in price, or not sell at all, as the parties having A's honey know if B's is put along side of it, they cannot sell a pound of A's till B's is disposed of, and thus the price paid for A's honey is used as a leverage to bring all honey down to that figure. These things ought not so to be, and the object of this article is to see if they need to be. "Very good," says one, "but how will you change such a state of affairs?" There are two ways of doing it: First, remove your own honey from the hives when it is first finished by the bees, going

over the apiary as often as necessary, even though you do this once a week, that all may be taken off before the bees change the color of the snowy combs to one of dirtiness, a condition far removed from what it was when first capped over. When taken from the hives, place it in a room with a temperature from 85° to 100° of heat, keeping this heat as near uniform as possible, either with an oil stove, or by the sun shining on a dark-painted roof over where your honey is stored, or, by both, so it will grow thick and of better quality, and to prevent any leaking of honey when you crate it, or upon reaching market. Keep an eye out for the larvæ or the wax moth, and if troublesome, use sulphur, after which pack it for market in neat, tasty crates or cases. Now call in all your bee-keeping friends to look at it, especially all whom you have reason to think have any honey to sell, and, after showing them yours, ask them what shape their's is in, and inform them as to the probable price of honey put up in nice shape. Have sample copies of the bee papers at hand, and especially some of the many good books of the present day on bee-keeping, and do not let one go away without subscribing for one or more of the papers, or purchasing a book. Just as soon as you can get men to reading on the subject of bees, they become interested in everything pertaining to the pursuit, and thus they will even try to excel you, if possible, in the neat way they put up their honey, while they in turn will educate others whom you may not be able to reach. If they will not take and read a bee paper or book, beware; for one of these old fogies let loose without any reliable reading regarding bees, for a rudder, does more harm to the honey trade than a dozen producers like yourself.

Second, if you cannot get your friends who keep bees to adopt a nice tasty package, and get their honey off in nice shape, do not let them put it on the market at all. Buy it yourself, or at least make them an offer for it for all it is worth, so if they should not get the price in the market you offered, they will bring it back to you. After having bought it, dress it up in the best shape possible and sell it with your own crop, and thus, as a rule, you can get out of it without nearly the loss you would have sustained had it gone on the market as did Mr. A's. After a few years of energetic work on the part of intelligent honey-producers along this line, we may be masters of the situation as to a more uniform price for our product.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Borodino, N. Y.

Some Things That We May Be Sure Of.

—By G. W. Domarco

There are some things that we may be mistaken about, though we may have spent some time in investigating the same things. But there are some things we may know without much investigation, and one of these things is, we have no honey in Kentucky this year up to the close of the white honey harvest.

The last fairly good honey season was in 1891. Since that year the seasons have grown worse and worse, till this year there has not been more than enough honey to support the bees during the time of the early honey harvest. Our best honey plants are perennials and biennials, and their conditions to produce honey, depends on the present season and the season preceding it. Last year, after the crops were safe from drought, the dry, hot weather of autumn literally burned out the white clover and most of the red clover, and the bees have had no clover to gather surplus from. In twenty years past no season has passed to the middle of July without my apiary yielding some honey till this year, 1896. Not a pound of honey have I ventured to take up to this date, July 31st. But since the 1st of June we have had wonderfully seasonable weather with copious rains, and the prospect for a fall flow of honey was never better than it is at this date. Something must happen in way of bad weather, or in some way, if we do not get fall honey this time. The entire absence of the white clover and red clover this year, has made most people who keep bees, intelligently or unwittingly understand where our surplus honey comes from. It surely comes from white and red clover. When these plants fail, our surplus honey fails.

There is much said about sweet clover as a honey plant. I have had sweet clover reach of my bees for ten or fifteen years and my bees literally scramble over the sweet-smelling, sweet clover, but it seems to be all. Like the perfect scramble over catnip, is the sweet clover I have never been able to distinguish a drop of sweet clover or catnip honey from any other known honey. I have noted for years that certain honey plants, like catnip, sweet clover, mother wort, E. weed and some other plants of E. character, are famous to attract bees.

that seems to be their prevailing trait, their strongest point. They are useful to keep the bees out of mischief. There are other things we need not to be mistaken about. People may reasonably differ about honey plants, because difference in locality may alter honey plants. But the physiology of bees must be the same everywhere. How is it, then, that learned people are to be found in the United States of America and in Canada, and no doubt in the wise old Mother Country, England, and in the rest of the world, who can't believe that "bees can bite?" You send out a query to the "smart" bee doctors of the world and ask them seriously if "bees can bite," and it might be safest for you to "fix to run." "Dr. Wiseman" asserted a good many years ago that bees are physically unable to "bite," and that has "settled it," for the rest have followed. Not a single scientific experiment has ever been published to show that bees are incapable of biting fruits. Some years ago the writer, from practical observations, was led to conduct scientific experiments to settle the question as to whether or not the honey bee is physically able to penetrate the skins of ordinary fruits. I first demonstrated that it is not the habit of the honey bee to attack the skins of sound fruits, but I observed at the time that in the heated season they can cut away any substance used in hive-building, except iron and glass. During the heated season of summer, when the bees have nothing to do, they will sometimes enlarge the entrance to the hive, and I have several colonies now flying from different parts of their hives, through holes they have nibbled at the corners of the hives. My bees often cut round, smooth holes in paper quilts, and in enamelled cloth covers. These smooth round holes suggested a scientific experiment. A round hole in the quilt where the bees were at work, enlarging the hole. Over this hole was placed a large ripe grape, and the bees being in the habit of cutting at that place promptly, but the skin of the grape and extracted its juice. A large wild goose plum was next tried, and it was cut through in due time. Finally, an early harvest apple was put on trial, and the bees cut its smooth rind. It will be seen that these bees cut these rind fruits in their efforts to cut their way through the quilt. This was proven by the fact that when a cluster of grapes were used, only the berry over the hole was cut, and the bees having moved the single grape over the hole as an obstruction, they were found crawling over the rest of the cluster without harming any more of them. These experiments as fully proved that bees do not habitually attack the sound

skins of fruits., as they proved that bees are physically able to bite through the covering of any ordinary fruits. I intended to refer to some other interesting matters, but this article is too long now.

Christiansburg, Kentucky, U S.A.

Methods of Securing and Managing Swarms.

BY HON. R. L. TAYLOR, Superintendent of the Michigan Experiment Apiary.

The season of 1896, in point of swarming, has been a remarkable one. The bees lightly set at naught all the accepted canons of bee-keepers respecting that function. Lack of great strength had little restraining influence, and abundance of room, even in the brood-nest, none at all.

Swarming began the last of May, continuing just a month, during a very moderate flow of nectar, ending abruptly when that flow was at its best at the height of basswood bloom, though even then the secretion of nectar was very light. Not more than one or two per cent. of the colonies did anything at all in the supers before casting swarms, and many did not wait to fill the combs in the brood-nest. Under such circumstances it is safe to say that it would be wise to cease efforts to determine the best methods of securing and managing swarms, on account of any bright prospect of speedy success in breeding out the swarming instinct, or even of any satisfactory invention that will practically allay it. Indeed it is a very serious question whether, if this object could be secured in either of these ways, it would be satisfactory to more than a very small percentage of apiarists.

There are always more or less losses from various causes to be made good, and there is no cheaper or more satisfactory way of doing this than through the increase by swarming. The loss of even a few colonies each winter during a series of unfavorable years, where there is little or no swarming, with occasional failure of queens and lack of stores, often best met by the uniting of colonies, sometimes makes the aggregate reduction in numbers rather startling. Then the serious item of the rearing of queens comes in, which must be done artificially if increase is secured without swarming. No doubt as good queens can be secured in this way as those obtained from cells built and cared for under the

swarming impulse, but how few, comparatively, are the apiarists who have the aptitude, skill and punctuality required to do it. Nineteen out of twenty, for one reason or another, would fail, and in these times of financial stringency and uncertain honey crops, they cannot afford to purchase. Besides, it can hardly yet be safely denied that bees receive an impetus to work by finding themselves in their newly-pitched tent, destitute of brood and provisions.

That there are some weighty objections to swarming, if it could be safely repressed, is not to be denied, but these may be reduced to two, namely, the time and labor required for watching and hiving swarms, and the danger of loss from swarms absconding. Some may hold that undesirable increase is another and more serious one still, but one should be easily able to obviate that, and indeed thereby reap a decided advantage. It is only a question of the disposal of the brood in the hive from which the swarms issue, and that is generally especially in early swarming, very valuable. To accomplish this, it is not necessary, as might be inferred from some discussions of the subject, that the brood, when hatched, or before, should be returned to the identical colony that produced it; indeed, it may usually be used with decidedly greater advantage in other ways. There are always at the opening of the honey season some colonies that are not up to the strength required for the best work in the supers. Let the hives full of rapidly hatching brood be distributed among such deficient colonies as fast as they can be obtained, first driving out of each all the bees left behind in the hive which with its swarm is, or is to be, put on the stand. Thus, in a few days, if swarming continues, all may be got into excellent condition.

Frequently, also, there are colonies out of condition on account of being possessed of superannuated or otherwise worthless queens. Destroy such queens as fast as hives of brood can be obtained, and place one on each now queenless colony, and in a few days it will be rejuvenated both in its strength and its queen. In some of these operations the advantages of a horizontally-divisible brood-chamber are especially apparent, for if one wishes to help two colonies with the brood of one it can be done without extra labor, or if one wishes to rear a few surplus queens to meet emergencies without driving out the bees remaining after the swarm issues, by simply dividing the brood-chamber, he may secure two queens as easily and as cheaply as one.

Other ways of disposing of the brood

thus obtained through swarming will occur to every one in practice, so that soon instead of deploring its abundance one will be likely to wish for more.

There is one principle that is valuable in this condition which I should recall before passing, and that is, that a colony having a laying queen of the current year's rearing can be pretty surely relied upon not to desire to swarm, no matter how strong it may be made within any reasonable bounds, and the same rule holds if it has a virgin queen, if there be not also occupied queen-cells in the hive. This fact may be taken advantage of to safely make some of the strongest possible colonies, and at the same time the most profitable ones, notwithstanding the notion which some cherish (but without good reason, I believe) that the possession of a virgin queen renders a colony unprofitable for comb honey.

How best to minimize the disadvantages of swarming which give rise to the other objections I have mentioned, is a somewhat more difficult matter. The absconding of prime can be almost certainly prevented by having had the wings of the queens previously clipped, which is most conveniently done about the first day of May preceding, but, though I have hitherto been strongly in favor of it, and would take as a choice of evils in the absence of the queen-trap, I find it liable in an apiary of any considerable extent where there is little danger of swarms clustering out of convenient reach, to one valid objection, and that is, that swarms usually remain a tantalizingly long time in the air, giving an unnecessarily pressing invitation to other swarms, and perhaps virgin queens, to join them, thus complicating the matter of successful hiving. In small apiaries this objection would not have the same validity, but in any case there is first the danger of the loss of valuable queens, and then in nine or ten days, in the absence of the apiarist, the loss of powerful swarms with virgin queens, so I now consider the queen-trap indispensable unless one is willing to watch his bees continually during the swarming season, and even then it is a great convenience.

For this purpose, the trap should be so made that the queen once in it cannot return to the hive. This enables the apiarist to determine, with the exercise of a very little attention, whether a swarm has issued during his absence from any given hive or not, by the conduct of the bees at the greater or less cluster remaining with the queen in the trap. If a swarm has issued and returned, usually the trap is

found full of bees, or nearly so; in such case I return the queen and bees to the hive and readjust the trap with the expectation that in a day or two I shall discover them making their next attempt, or, if I had no such expectation, I would shake out enough bees to make a good swarm and hive them with the queen in the ordinary way.

A trap full of bees at the entrance of the hive from which the prime swarm, or at least the old queen, has been taken, indicates that the young queen has attempted to issue; if the trap has but few bees, it shows that the young queen has attempted to take her mating flight, or perhaps sometimes that she has got into the trap in endeavoring to escape from a rival. In either case, swarming is over, and the trap should be removed and the queen returned, unless it is certain the colony still has one.

It is best then, I think, to keep traps on all colonies likely to swarm, removing them as soon as the danger is over, being particularly careful on this point in the case of those having virgin queens. When a swarm is discovered issuing, remove the trap, thus allowing the queen to go with the swarm, which induces speedy and perfect clustering, when it may be secured in a moment in a basket.

A light pole to which a basket is attached near the farther end, serves both to shake out and secure most swarms that cluster out of the reach of the hand.

For the highest success in the production of comb honey, strong swarms are desirable and living swarms on the old stand not only conduces to their strength, but has also a strong tendency, often almost prohibitive, to prevent afterswarms. However, with the methods I use there is a limit to the profitable strength of swarms. If they exceed seven or eight pounds in weight, there is apt to be discontent and an early preparation to swarm again, even if they do not persist in attempting to abscond. This determination to abscond is a difficulty which I have had to encounter very frequently during swarming seasons, owing principally, no doubt, to the small size of the brood-chamber which I feel compelled to give swarms. After testing different plans, I have at last been almost entirely successful in meeting this difficulty by giving the swarm at first a double brood-chamber and removing the lower section in two days. This plan has proved a decided relief in the management of swarms.

Little need be said in addition to meet the objection made against swarming on account of time required for attending to most prime swarms issue between 9

o'clock a.m. and 12 o'clock m., so that, with the traps, three hours a day answers very well. In case of necessity, even less time may be made to serve without serious loss, even to so little as three hours every third day. It is possible that there may be a little danger of swarms going away with virgin queens on their mating flight, but it is not great, for such queens are distasteful to prime swarms, though any laying queen is acceptable.

If a prime swarm and an afterswarm with their queen unite, the young queen will usually be found balled, and it is seldom worth while to separate them because there will almost certainly be sufficient of the prime swarm with the young queen to destroy her or break up the colony.

Some complaint is made that queens escape through the perforated zinc of the queen-trap. The perforation in my traps are 5-32 of an inch, and no queens escape.—Review.

Lapeer, Mich., July, 7.

Notes and Pickings.

From what I have been able to learn, the mortality among queens has been very great this season. Apoplexy seems to have been very prevalent, caused by bee keepers making a chasm between head and body. Requeening has been all the rage in this locality at any rate. While I believe this is a move in the right direction, especially so, after a season of very little or no swarming, I nevertheless also believe, that very often when a populous colony fails to store a reasonable amount of honey, the queen is condemned and put to death, when in reality the apiarist is solely to blame, for not giving that colony the proper management, at just exactly the proper time. Would it not be well, if we were sure that a queen was worthless before we lay a heavy finger on her, unless she is likely to be past her best on account of age.

In a straw in Gleanings, Dr. Miller reports for July 15th, having 4,439 finished sections in the house, with more to follow. The doctor will surely require the assistance of some able bee-keeper to figure up the average per colony this year. Clever mathematician though he is, I think it about kept him busy to strike an average a year or two ago, when, if I remember correctly his reported crop was not quite so large.

Say! is it not somewhat mortifying, to know that you have killed the mother of a very irritable colony, to introduce a new queen, at the middle of the honey harvest, and then find at the end of the harvest that

the self same colony stored nigh unto 200 lbs. of surplus; and also find half a dozen or more colonies in the yard, that hardly reached its 25 lb. mark. Such is my experience this season.

I am sure I never knew bees to be so cross and hard to manage, as mine were this year during the basswood flow. I wonder if the windy weather had anything to do with it.

I am looking forward to the time, when the members of the O. B. A. shall meet in convention in Toronto. I am also looking forward to a better meeting than the association has had for a few years, from one standpoint at least. Thinking possibly, the bountiful honey yield this year will have sweetened bee-keepers so thoroughly that harmony will reign supreme, and that those little differences which have cropped up at former meetings will be more easily overcome. I very much desire to know that the hatchet of strife and discord, will be, (if not already) buried so everlastingly deep, that it can never be resurrected; then, and not before will the association and the industry which it represents, be justly and properly served.

About it being a mistake to use full sheets of foundation in sections, as stated by the late Mr. Pringle, I have this to say, I have never yet eaten honey that was stored in sections that were provided with full sheets, that was so acceptable to my palate, as that stored in natural built comb. But perhaps Mr. Editor will say, that I am something other than a discriminating consumer, (see page 844 C. B. J. for July); let that be as it may, my fancy of taste must be respected, because I do not intend to allow another individual to eat comb honey for me just yet. Unless a lighter foundation can be made practicable than I have yet been able to procure, or the bees can be whipped to drawing the wax out better, there is nothing suits me so well as natural built comb for quality. But, when it comes to quantity, then I simply say, that starters are not in it at all alongside of full sheets, although my experience is very limited along that line.

I have never used wired frames until this year, and I am so well pleased with the combs built in them, that I shall use nothing else in the future unless something better is invented.

A year ago I bought 3 very yellow Italian queens. Two of them were accepted. The hives had been pretty well depleted of bees when the queens were introduced, and it being rather late and no honey coming in, there was very few young bees hatched last fall, consequently they went into winter

with a very small family. However, they came through the winter, but very weak in bees. As warm weather set in very early and continued so, they built up very rapidly, so much so, that I thought they would be first to swarm. Did they? Not much. They were the last two swarms I had. But they stored a lot of honey? Who told you so? They did nothing of the kind, only about 20 finished sections from the two colonies. I have promised those two yellow dandies, that if they and I live until another honey season, I shall give them an opportunity to store in extracting combs, and if they still persist in loafing when the flowers are yielding nectar, in that case they (the queens) shall live no longer, whether I do or not.

I have lately succeeded in introducing a queen to colony that was badly infected with laying workers and queenless five or six weeks. So now I come to know there are conditions under which such a colony will accept a laying queen. What are the conditions?

Is it not provoking, next thing to cussedness, for eleven of the nut crackers in A. B. J.'s question box to pronounce in favor of spacing brood frames $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from centre to centre, and only about six in favor of $1\frac{3}{4}$. After I had thought $1\frac{3}{4}$ was almost accepted as a universal standard. And I have laboured for four years with that distance in view. Wonder if those fellows haven't got the big head.

D. W. HEISE.

The Lincoln Convention Oct. 7 and 8.

We have received the following further notice concerning the next North American meeting, from the Secretary, Dr A. B. Mason:

STATION B., TOLEDO, Ohio,
Aug. 18, 1896.

MR. EDITOR.—As you already know, the next meeting of the North American Bee-keepers' Association is to be held in Lincoln, Nebraska, in one of the University buildings, on the 7th and 8th of next October, commencing at 9 o'clock a. m. on the 7th, and closing with the evening session on the 8th.

The securing of railway rates, and arrangements at Lincoln, have been left to the Executive Committee with the Nebraska bee-keepers, and my correspondence has been mostly with Mr. L. D. Stilson, editor of The Nebraska Bee-keeper, and Secretary of the Nebraska State Bee-keepers' Association, and through his efforts arrangements have been made by which the railroad

will be one fare plus \$2.00 for the round trip, tickets to be bought on Oct. 3, but I learn that the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern railroad has not yet entered into the agreement, but probably will do so before the time of meeting.

The way for bee-keepers east of Lincoln to take advantage of the Homeseekers' Excursion rates is, to purchase their tickets to a point beyond Lincoln, then stop off at Lincoln for the convention, and afterward go on to the point to which the tickets were purchased, pay the extra \$2.00 there, and start on the return trip. But your local railroad agent should be able to give you definite information about this.

In addition to the above it is possible that a rate of a fare and a third on the certificate plan will also be made to accommodate those who cannot take advantage of the Homeseekers' Excursion rate. Watch the bee papers for further announcements as to rates.

The Wabash railroad will sell tickets on the above date for one fare for the round trip, which, from here, is \$21.40. As yet, I have received no information about rates from north, south, or west of London.

The Nebraska bee-keepers have promised to entertain free all members of the Association who live outside of Nebraska, and anyone interested in bee culture can become a member by the payment of one dollar to the Secretary. It seems to me that Nebraska bee-keepers have taken a good-sized contract, and I hope we shall have the largest convention the Association has ever held, but the Nebraska bee-keepers are said to be "hustlers," and there need be no fears about their filling their part of the bill, even if hundreds of bee-keepers try their mettle.

That all may know something of what to expect, the following programme has been provided:

- Honey Commission-Men and Adulteration—George W. York, of Chicago, Ill.
- Improvements in Bee-Culture—Ernest R. Root, of Medina, Ohio.
- Bee-keepers' Exchange—Prof. A. J. Cook, of Claremont, Cal.
- The Past and Future of Bee-keeping—Mrs. J. N. Heater, of Columbus, Neb.
- The Union and Amalgamation—Thomas Newman, of San Diego, Cal.
- How to Secure Comb Honey—W. Z. Hutchinson, of Flint, Mich.
- Importance of Water in the Apiary—Hon. E. Whitcomb, of Friend, Neb.
- Economic Value of Bees and Their Products—C. P. Madant, of Hamilton, Ill.
- Some of the Conditions of Nebraska—L. Stalson, of York, Neb.

The Honey-Producer and Supply-Dealer—Rev. Emerson T. Abbott, of St. Joseph, Mo.

The Wild Bees of Nebraska—Prof. Lawrence Bruner, of Lincoln, Neb.

Artificial Heat and Pure Air. Properly Applied in Wintering—R. F. Holtermann, of Brantford, Ont.

An original poem by Hon. Eugene Secor, of Forest City, Iowa.

Sweet Clover as a Honey-Producing Plant—Wm. Stolley, of Grand Island, Neb.

How to Winter Bees Successfully—Hon. George E. Hilton, of Fremont, Mich.

The Production of Extracted Honey—Two brief papers, one by N. E. Brance, of Platteville, Wis.; and one by J. C. Balch, of Bronson.

— — — — — Mrs. J. M. Null, of Miami, Mo.

President A. I. Root will give an address on some subject that will be of interest to all.

It is the present intention to devote the first evening's session to addresses of welcome by Gov. Holcomb, in behalf of the State, and by the Chancellor, Hon. George E. McLean, in behalf of the State University. Responses will be made by Hon. Eugene Secor, of Iowa, and others who will be named later. Ex-Governor Saunders, an old-time bee-keeper, will also address the convention; and at some session Prof. Charles E. Bessy will tell us something about "Botany as Related to the Honey-Flora."

I am informed that there will be from 1,500 to 1,700 students at the State University, and it is probable, if time will admit, that from 600 to 800 of them will desire to listen to one or more brief addresses on apianian subjects that will be of interest to them.

It is possible that too many papers and addresses have been provided for, but it is fair to presume that the Nebraska bee-keepers are "hustlers," and we know that those whose names are on the programme are also "hustlers," or they would not have been put there, for this is to be a meeting of "hustlers."

Mr. E. Whitcomb, President of the Nebraska State Bee-keepers' Association, writes me that "no pains will be spared to make the meeting the most pleasant ever enjoyed, and Lincoln.....will be yours on that occasion;" and the editor of The American Bee Journal says: "Let's simply astound the Nebraska people with numbers."

It is expected that the Amalgamation Committee will make a report that will be of interest to every bee-keeper on the continent, and it is hoped as many will be present as possible.

A. B. MASON, Sec.

Reports of the Season.....

To give bee-keepers and others a better opportunity to judge of the present condition of bee-keeping, the honey crop, and so on, we sent out a circular, to which a great many replies have been received. The following were the questions :

1. How was swarming last year (1895) ?
2. How did bees winter in your vicinity ?
3. How did bees build up in the spring ?
4. How has the clover flow been ?
5. How has the basswood flow been ?
6. How has the thistle flow been ?
7. What are prospects for thistle flow ?
8. How has swarming been this year ?

Or give any other information you think will be interesting and profitable. Your prompt reply will be much appreciated.

In reply to your August 8th.

1. Bees wintered well. I lost one.
2. How did bees build up in the Spring 1895? Poor.
3. Clover flow good 1896.
4. Basswood flow good.
5. Thistle very good.
6. Prospects for buckwheat is very promising. There will be a big flow. Have had lots of rain.
7. Swarming 1896 was too much. I wintered 16; I have now 40, and still swarming. The Carinolians are terrible bees to swarm. I got a queen last fall and there are ten now. They are not much for honey. I will see how they do on buckwheat. If not good, I will change the queens to Italian queens.

JOHN MURPHY.

Silver Hill, Norfolk Co., Ont., Aug. 12, '96.

1. We did not have one swarm in 1895.
2. My own bees wintered fairly, but most people report great losses.
3. Never had bees come up better than this Spring.
4. Clover flow never was better, and second-crop clover is still in bloom.
5. Basswood was just fair, we having three or four cool days during the flow.

6. Thistle flow, fair.

7. There are good prospects for a buckwheat flow. Bees are storing fine. On account of the oats in this vicinity being destroyed by the grub, many farmers planted buckwheat on the destroyed oat ground, and so it is earlier than usual.

8. We have had a fair percentage of swarms this season. Some report as high as four or five swarms from a single hive, and all swarms filling up.

JOHN NEWTON.

Thamesford, Oxford Co.,
Ont., Aug. 12, 1896.

Aug. 12th, 1896.

DEAR SIR.—I have much pleasure in answering, to the best of my ability, the questions contained in your circular received to-day:

1. Swarming last year.—My bees did not give evidence of swarming early (June), so I practised artificial swarming with nearly all hives, and was quite satisfied with the result, getting a good yield from all the old stocks and the "made hives" had time to build up strong by the fall with sufficient stores for wintering.

2. Wintering 1895-96.—In most instances, I believe, bees wintered quite satisfactorily in this vicinity where, of course, indoor wintering is the rule. I put 15 colonies in the cellar and lost one during the winter. Cause: Queen died about the end of February. I noticed the bees were restless, so examined the hive and found the dead queen. I added the living bees to another hive which accepted them readily.

3. Spring Building Up.—Bees came out of winter quarters only fairly strong, but increased with me very rapidly, although, the Spring was late, we had a severe frosts after the bees were out (15th of April).

4. Clover flow.—Began second week in June, and seemed very abundant. Strong swarms, gaining as much as four and in one instance five, hives a day.

5. Basswood Flow.—The trees, of which there are a large number in this vicinity, were simply covered with bloom, and I judge yielded an abundance of honey, as

the bees were very busy in them. Flowering began 2nd July, and was about over by the 15th.

I may remark that my clover and basswood honey is very much mixed this year on account of their being a vast amount of clover in bloom along with the basswood, and the bees working equally on both.

6. Thistle flow.—None in this district.

7. Buckwheat flow, prospects.—My bees have been working very hard on buckwheat fields on the other side of the Ottawa river for the past twelve days, and if the flow lasts will certainly give a good account of themselves. The smell in the apiary from the honey is particularly strong at present, possibly owing to the great heat.

8. Swarming this year.—With me most satisfactory. I increased my apiary by purchase in the early spring from 14 wintered to 25 colonies, and had 25 swarms by the 18th of June. In every instance where I put the old box on a new stand I had no second swarm; and the old hives are all going to give a good return in honey (from 28 to 50 pounds up to the present time).

The greatest number of swarms I had in one day was seven, and swarming was all over with my bees in fourteen days.

I have several colonies of pure Italian bees (queens purchased from Messrs G., S. & M.) and like them very much for some reasons; for instance, they are wonderfully prolific, and the bees indefatigable workers, quite noticeably more so than the black bees. For exhibition purposes I fear, however, that the section honey would take no place on account of the "water logged" appearance given by close capping. One thing I noticed about my Italians when swarming, that they all took a long time to cluster, and in every instance clustered in several small bunches which caused some difficulty in getting them hived. I should like to be informed if this is the experience of others or only peculiar in my case.

9. Yield of honey to date 2200 filled sections, $4\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$.

Trusting you may be able to gather some items of interest to your subscribers of the Bee Journal.

Yours truly,

PERCY H. SELWYN.

Ottawa, Russell County, Aug. 12, 1896.

In reply to your circular of August 8th, I would report as follows:—

1. Swarming in my apiary was excessive. I ran entirely for comb honey. I was greatly troubled with second and third small swarms.

2. Bees wintered well in my vicinity. I

lost two out of 86, and two by spring dwindling. I wintered in the cellar, in a room adjoining furnace room. The furnace keeps the cellar drier, and I have better success in wintering since putting in the furnaces.

3. Bees built up in the spring well. The season has been generally very forward. In this county there were many swarms during the last ten days of May.

4. The clover flow has been good. I have had 50 or more pounds from some colonies.

5. I cannot speak accurately about basswood and thistle flow, but I believe we got a fair amount of honey from basswood.

7. We have had for two weeks a good supply from buckwheat. The very hot weather of the past week will probably cut off the supply. Not much buckwheat sown.

8. Swarming more satisfactory than last year. By cutting out queen cells in most of the colonies after first swarm I had few after swarms. Still the second swarms were of good size. In ten instances two first swarms went in together. I did not separate them but on double supers. On the whole, the outlook for bee-keepers is good. I find the $8\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ section the most profitable, retailing at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.

I find that there is a better demand than formerly for extracted. I intended to run the old hives next spring for extracted and the new swarms for comb.

Yours truly,

W. A. WHITING.

Morrisburg, Dundas Co., Ont.

P. S. I began with 92 and have just doubled.

[Nearly everyone has abandoned the $9\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ section and we believe we are correct in saying in future no supply dealer will list this size of section at regular price. We would not advise anyone to adopt an odd size section as the above.—ED.]

In answer to yours of Aug. 8th.

All I can say about bees and honey will have to be about my own yard. Last year there were not many swarms. This year I had 50 hives that cast first swarms and quite a number of second. With regard to wintering I put 67 into my bee house and brought out the same all alive, 4 queenless, 1 weak, so that left me with 62 to start with. I have 90 now. Clover honey yielded little. Basswood good. Thistle I do not know. I saw them working on thistles. There are not many bees around here, except mine. The prospects for buckwheat are good. I have about 2,200 lbs. of extra good basswood honey, 600 sections

basswood. I have 500 lbs. of honey, the first extracting colored, and about 300 sections the same. The foundation you sent me is the best I have had for some time.

Yours truly

S. BROMELL.

Canton, Durham Co., Ont., Aug. 13th, '96.

Yours of 8th inst. to hand this morning and will answer the questions in the order given to the best of my ability.

1st. Swarming in 1895. My colonies each swarmed once.

2nd. How do they winter? Very well, I lost none, but heard of heavy losses a few miles distant.

3. How did bees build up in the spring? The spring was favorable and they got to work early.

4. Clover flow. The last few seasons being dry, there was not much blossom.

5. Basswood flow. Was good, lasting about 10 days.

6. Thistle. There was not much this season.

7. Buckwheat. There is very little grown in this vicinity.

8. Swarming. Was early. Each colony swarmed three times and one of my first swarms swarmed once and one of them swarmed twice.

THOS. PEART.

Freeman, Halton Co., Ont., Aug. 12th, '96.

1. My bees did not swarm much last year.

2. Bees wintered well here.

3. Bees did not build up well in the spring.

4. Very little clover here this spring.

5. Basswood flow was never better. Some of my best colonies made over 100 lbs. sealed honey. The flow lasted 15 days, commencing on the 5th July. My hive on scales made 107 lbs. in the 15 days.

6. Have no thistle honey.

7. Poor prospects for buckwheat honey, there is plenty sowed but the weather is very hot and dry.

8. My bees have not swarmed much, some others have swarmed too much to suit them.

A. BRIDGE, Proprietor,
Apple Grove Apiary.

West Brook, Ont., Aug. 12th, 1896.

but few who keep any quantity of bees near me.

1. Swarming was good last year (1895).

2. Fairly well.

3. They build up slow'y.

4. The clover flow has been quite limited.

5. The thistle did not amount to but little, it has been too dry this season.

6. We have no basswood to speak of here.

7. The buckwheat is just commencing, cannot say how it will hold out. They are working on it now.

8. The swarming is good this year.

I think they went back for the last three weeks until the buckwheat commenced.

Your truly,

C. C. FARRAN.

Farran's Point, Ont., Aug. 14th, 1896.

Swarming was light last year.

Bees wintered well and built up good this spring.

The flow from clover and basswood has been good in this vicinity.

My bees have averaged 30 lbs. white comb honey per colony spring count, and are now working well on buckwheat.

Had on an average one swarm per colony.

JOS. STEBBINS.

Abbotsford, Que., Aug., 12th, 1896.

You send me stamped one addressed envelope for an answer to a few questions, if it was in French it would be very easy for me. I can read English but I cannot write properly.

1. About the swarming last year it was very poor in my locality.

2. All my colonies 46, wintered all right.

3. They build up well in the spring, they gave me the first swarm the 15th June

4. The clover flow was very good here about like last year. I got about the same crop I did last year.

5. The basswood flow is middling around here.

6. The thistle flow is not so good as last year. At present time we have too much dry and hot weather, that don't suit the bees.

7. The prospects for buckwheat I think is going to be middling.

8. About half of my colonies swarmed this year. I have extracted 50 lbs. per colony.

SAM. BRABANT.

Beauharnois, Beauharnois Co., Q.
Aug. 18th, 1896

DEAR SIR,—Your circular to hand. I will have to answer off hand, as there are

1. How was swarming last year (1895)? Very little.
2. How did the bees winter in your vicinity? Fairly well.
3. How did bees build up in the spring? Well.
4. How has the clover flow been? Poor.
5. How has the basswood flow been? Good.
6. How has the thistle flow been?
7. What are prospects for buckwheat flow? Not very good.
8. Swarming commenced rather early and was all over in about two weeks, about 25 per cent. increase.

J. W. SPARLING.

Bowmanville, Durham Co., Ont.

1. In 1895 there were very few swarms. The bees wintered very good in my vicinity. I lost only 5 colonies out of 55. They died for the want of honey.
2. They did very good in the spring of 1893.
4. Clover flow has been good this summer, the best we have had in a number of years.
5. The basswood flow has been good in our vicinity.
6. The thistle flow has not not been much in our vicinity.
7. Buckwheat flow is good and lots of buckwheat sown in this district. Are working well.
8. Everybody's bees has swarmed good and are swarming yet. We had more and doubled this summer. I have 90 skips now.

JAS. H. HUYCK.

St. Williams, Norfolk Co., Ont., Aug. 12, '96.

DEAR SIRS,—Your letter and questions to hand, I am not prepared to answer all the questions, as this is the first season I have kept bees. Last spring I bought six skips of bees in March and two skips died shortly after I got them. But as a general thing I think the bees wintered very well in this vicinity. The bees built up very well in the spring as far as we know. How has the clover flow been? Very poor with us. The basswood flow was a little better. The thistle flow was poor. We think that the buckwheat flow will be better if it isn't too late. In regards to other information I am not very well posted in the bee matter yet.

DANIEL BIDDLE.

Bowman Mills, Norfolk Co., Aug. 12th, 1896.

1. Swarming in 1895 poor, enquire where you could, no swarming to speak of.

2. Wintering very good with me, others not so good.
3. 1895 fair, 1896 poor, high cold winds against it.
4. 1895 good while it lasted, 1896 poor.
5. 1895 poor; 1896 very good, in fact the best for some years, the dry weather caught it a little.
8. Swarming, 1896, very good, but late, most of it after 15th June.

JOSIAH REAMAN.

Carrville, York Co., Ont., Aug. 17th, 1896.

1. Swarming last year about 10 per cent.
2. Very good.
3. Good, best for years.
4. Not very good, no surplus.
5. Basswood very good, about 40 lbs.
6. None to amount to anything.
7. Not good, no buckwheat.
8. Good, over 100 per cent.

J. A. FOSTER.

Tilbury, Kent Co., Ont., Aug. 17th, 1896.

1. How was swarming last year (1895)? Very poor.
2. How did the bees winter in your vicinity? About 30 per cent. died.
2. How did the bees build up in the spring? Good.
4. How has the clover flow been? Very good.
5. How has the basswood flow been? Excellent.
6. How has the thistle flow been? Do not know, only fair I think.
7. What are prospects for buckwheat flow? Splendid.
8. How has the swarming been this year? Plenty of swarms.

BLAKE WASHBURN.

Sheffield, Wentworth Co., Ont.

I will try to answer your questions to the best of my ability.

1. Swarming was very poor last year just three swarms from sixty hives, but I kept them back all I could.
2. Mine wintered very well, but a great many lost all they had.
3. They did very well.
4. Very good while it lasted, but the season was short.
5. Very poor, plenty of blossom, but no honey in it.
6. Very poor. The weather was so dry. No sick heat around these parts this year.
8. I had twenty swarms from fifty-five hives.

As far as I can see the honey season is about over, nothing now is left except a little golden rod for them to work on. Last year I had about a ton of honey, and I think it will be about the same this year. The weather is so dry there is very little honey.

Yours truly,

JOHN NEWHOUSE.

Homer, Lincoln Co., Ont., Aug. 12, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—Owing to sickness and death in our family last summer, I do not remember how many hives we had. They increased to forty; two were robbed last fall. We put in thirty-eight; they wintered better than ever we had them before. We had thirty-six good strong colonies this spring. They have increased to seventy-one; several swarms went together.

1. Swarming good in 1895.
2. Wintering medium in 1895.
3. Good.
4. Clover splendid.
5. Basswood good.
6. Do not know anything about thistle.
7. Buckwheat real good.
8. Excellent.

I find if we have good strong colonies there is any amount of honey to be gathered. To have strong colonies we must have them well wintered. Last winter we had an air tube in our cellar. I used to open and close it according as the weather suited, and our bees wintered exceedingly well. Last fall I put some coarse salt in each hive, at the back and at the entrance, this helped to prevent mould. Our hives are large and have a good supply of honey. We do not have to feed any scarcely. The honey flow has been excellent this year.

Mrs. G. BURROUGHS.

Fallowfield, Carleton County, Ont., Aug. 14, 1896.

Yours of the 8th came to hand, and I will try to answer as well as possible.

1. Spring of '95 opened out with seven colonies, which managed to support themselves and lay up stores enough for winter. No surplus in this locality, and no swarms.
2. We lost one of the seven colonies, but I do not know of any one else in this locality who lost less than 25 per cent, and nearly all of them 75 per cent or more of what they went into winter with.
3. As a rule they did remarkably well. Fruit bloom was plentiful.
4. Where ever there was a field of alsike there was a fairly good supply. Clover was not of very much account.
5. Very little in what opened first, but a little later fairly good, but one-third of the

time bees did very little with it owing to so much high wind. Sometimes for as many as three days they scarcely left the hives.

6. About as usual, fairly good.
7. Nothing, as they do not sow buckwheat to any extent in this locality.
8. Good, never saw better, four of ours have increased to fifteen, one has swarmed five times, and the last and smallest would have filled a four quart pail at least. All are in good shape for winter, even the parent hive has yielded 25 pounds of section and 25 or 30 pounds of extracted honey, and to-day they are a rousing old swarm if there is one in this country, and the neighbors have also increased well in a good many cases.

A. W. SMITH.

Harrisburg, Brant County, Ont.

In answer to your enquiry I would say:

1. That we practiced dividing, or artificial swarming in 1895, and had very few after swarms.
2. Our bees wintered well, lost three colonies out of fourteen, and those were short of stores.
3. Bees built up quickly in spring.
- 4-5. Had a good yield of clover and basswood. Since then there has been no surplus.
7. Believe prospect is good.
8. Has not been excessive.

R. MCCONNELL.

Dresden, Bothwell Co., Ont., Aug. 13, 1896.

1. How was swarming last year (1895)? Poor.
 2. How did the bees winter in your vicinity? Only fair.
 3. How did bees build up in the spring? Good.
 4. How has the clover flow been? Very good.
 5. How has the basswood flow been? Good.
 6. How has the thistle flow been? None.
 7. What are prospects for buckwheat flow? None sown.
 8. How has swarming been this year? One from each wintered.
- New and old have given me nearly 100 pounds each of extracted, and 60 pounds of comb.
- A. R. FAIRHELLER.
- Mt. Elgin, Norfolk Co., Ont.
- Yours containing questions received, I will answer them to the best of my judgment and observations.
1. Swarming was almost a failure, c-

one-fourth swarmed at all in my apiary, last year.

2. I saved every colony last winter, and all but three appeared stronger and healthier than any previous spring. Two came out queenless. Several of my neighbors complained of losses.

3. Most of mine built up well this spring.

4. Clover flow rather scant.

5. Basswood flow fairly good here.

6. Thistle flow fairly good here.

7. Too dry in this section for the buckwheat so far. Gathering is very slow, although there is a considerable acreage in bloom.

8. Swarming has been good this year. Several have doubled by natural swarming.

D. W. BILLINGS.

Kirby, Durham Co., Ont., Aug. 13, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your questions for publication in Bee Journal.

1. No swarming in 1895.

2. Poorly, loss from 25 to 75 per cent.

3. Very good, considering their poor condition in spring.

4. About 25 pounds per colony with me.

5. Splendid, 75 pounds per colony with me.

6. Did not notice much from thistle.

7. Not enough buckwheat here for a flow.

8. Only about 10 per cent of my bees have swarmed this year.

Comb honey has not been as extensively raised as usual in this vicinity, owing perhaps to the poor prospect for clover, and the unusual number of empty combs which most bee-keepers had on hand after the poor season.

H. G. SIBBALD.

Cooksville, Peel Co., Ont., Aug. 12, 1896.

Replying to your request of the 8th Aug.

may say:

1. Very little swarming. Only one in my own yard.

2. Nothing to boast of, the percentage of losses were quite large throughout this vicinity, lost nine in my yard.

3. Built up fast, having had nothing to check progress from commencement up to swarming time.

4. Very slow. Acreage far below the average.

5. Flow was good to extract, but high winds most every day.

6. No good.

7. No buckwheat in this locality.

8. About 50 per cent. of the colonies swarmed. Great loss of young queens on wedding flight.

D. W. HIRSE.

Wesley, Ontario Co., Aug. 12th, 1896.

In reply to your questions, I might say this has been one of the best years for bee keepers in this locality that I have known. The apple blossom was large as well as as lasting. Then came clover, basswood and thistle. The thistle we keep cut as much as possible to keep within the requirement of the law. We have no buckwheat.

1. I had no swarms in 1895 and no surplus honey.

2. Bees wintered well where they had plenty of stores.

3. Built up very quick and strong in the spring.

4. The clover flow has been good.

5. Basswood has also produced a splendid flow.

6. The thistle has not been so large, owing to its destruction.

7. With a very few exceptions we have no buckwheat.

8. Swarming was lively this year. We started in the spring with 13 colonies and have now 34. Extracted already about 1300 lbs. of honey, and 50 lbs. comb honey has been taken off. I might give the experience of some others that have kept a few colonies that were not cared for last fall. They came out weak in the spring, many dwindled and died, and those colonies that swarmed at all were still neglected and the swarms went to the woods. So it is easily seen that bee-keeping, as well as any other business wants proper care and attention or it will end in a failure, no matter what the season is.

J. H. BEST.

Balmoral, Haldimand Co., Ont., August 12th, 1896.

1. No swarms in 1895, and no honey.

2. A great many bees died from starvation and queenlessness in this vicinity.

3. Bees built up fast in spring (1896) without any check.

4. White clover did not yield much, Alsike did somewhat better.

5. A good flow from basswood and thistle.

No buckwheat sown in this locality this year.

8. Swarming was excessive and where not checked a great increase of colonies has been made.

There has been no flow since basswood, only enough coming in to keep up brooding.

R. H. SMITH.

St. Thomas, Elgin Co., Ont., Aug. 12, '96.

1. Fairly good.

2. Well.

3. Well.

4. Excellent.
5. Excellent.
6. Don't know. No thistles near here to make observations on.
7. Good.
8. More swarms than last year and stronger.

An excellent year for bee-keeping.

JOHN FIXTER.

Dom. Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Ont.

1. How was swarming last year (1895)? Good.
2. How did the bees winter in your vicinity? Well.
3. How did the bees build up in the spring? Well.
4. How has the clover flow been? Very good.
- How has the basswood flow been? Good.
6. How has the thistle flow been? No thistles here.
7. What are the prospects for buckwheat flow? Good.
8. How has swarming been this year? Good.

R. B. GRAY.

Pembroke, Renfrew County, August 12, 1896.

In reply to your enquiries, would say:

The year of '95 was the poorest for bee-keeping I ever saw. There was almost no swarming at all.

The season came in splendidly, the bees were in good condition.

After fruit bloom there was for a few days a lot of honey dew and bees began to swarm. That failed suddenly and the bees began to kill their drones, for the drought had set in which lasted all summer.

Buckwheat yielded some honey from which the bees generally gathered enough for winter stores, for they had only made a poor living from clover and basswood. Then, of course, they went into winter quarters in rather poor condition, a few died and some came through weak and had to be united, while others came through in good order, not to say very strong, but they gained rapidly and were ready to store from fruit bloom which yielded more this spring than it has for many years, for we had fine warm weather at that time.

They were strong when clover bloomed, but it did not yield much for there was not much of it.

Basswood, well we just had an old-fashioned year for that, when the bloom fairly drips with honey, and the air everywhere was perfumed with the sweet scent of the flowers, and bee-keepers were happy.

Thistle yielded some honey.

The prospect for buckwheat is good just now.

Bees are swarming again. There has been much swarming all the season through where there was nothing done to prevent it.

ILA MICHENER.

Low Banks, Monck Co., Ont., Aug. 11, 1896.

Your circular of 8th Aug. just received which I will answer by return mail as accurately as I can.

1. About the average with me, about 75 per cent swarmed.
2. Good.
3. Well. We had a very favorable spring here, very warm and dry. My bees have plenty of stores. Built up well.
4. None.
5. Light. Very favorable weather, hot dry winds during the day, cold nights.
6. None.
7. Very dry at present, if we get rain prospects good for a long flow. Bees working on it now in the mornings, and acres of it just up. If we get rain enough will last till frost.

8 I have had seven from 146 hives (more comparatively).

R. LOWEY.

Woodrows, Prince Edward Co., Ont., Aug. 12, 1896.

1. Swarming was poor during 1895, about one-half the colonies swarmed.
2. The bees wintered well; loss about 10 per cent.
3. The bees built up exceedingly well, were in prime condition for the honey flow, May 15th.
4. The clover flow was just medium, lots of clover bloom, but the weather was not favorable.
5. The basswood flow seemed poor, it came in the height of the clover flow, and although there were myriads of blossoms about as many bees worked on clover as basswood.
6. Thistle flow has been fair.
7. No buckwheat grown in our immediate locality.
8. Swarming has been good. Began in the home yard with 70, increased to 100, began at the out yard with 65, increased to 125.

JAS NOLAN.

Newton Robinson, Aug. 12th, 1896.

I will answer as near possible your questions in the following order:

1. As a rule very extensive. Reason: want of proper control over same, as a result, a poor crop.

2. Possibly a loss of about 20 per cent. Reasons—as far as I know, poor repositories to winter in and want of enough of food, also feeding too late in the fall.

3. Very good, considering how they wintered. But when strong enough a good crop.

4. Lots of clover blossom, but nights too cold to secrete honey in June. First week in July good. As a whole, clover crop here away behind last year.

5. Promised good, weather was too dry and hot; about four days flow, but it fairly tumbled in during that time.

6. Well I cannot say, it is a weed that don't trouble us very much.

7. Prospects of a very big flow.

8. As a rule not very much in some parts of the county, too much with others.

REMARKS—We are in a good county for bee business, but great lack of knowledge. Want of proper attention in spring. Not sufficient stores in spring and don't build up in time for the crop with all my experience. If you make sure of lots of honey in the hive in spring, you will get a crop. In the fall the general run of bee-keepers don't see in time if they are well supplied with feed for winter and allowing them to swarm as they please, which is a great mistake.

ALEX. DICKSON.

Lancaster, Glengarry Co., Ont.

1. How was swarming last year (1895)? Very little.

2. How did the bees winter in your vicinity? Fairly well.

3. How did bees build up in the spring? Fair.

4. How has the clover flow been? Light

5. How has the basswood flow been? Good for a few days.

6. How has the thistle flow been? We do not grow many thistles.

7. What are prospects for buckwheat flow? Fair, if we get rain.

8. How has swarming been this year? Lots of swarms where the bees were improperly managed.

J. H. MANNING.

Byrone, Durham Co., Ont.

1. How was swarming last year (1895)? Not much.

2. How did the bees winter in your vicinity? Average.

3. How did bees build up in the spring? Good.

4. How has the clover flow been? Good.

5. How has the basswood flow been? Good.

6. How has the thistle flow been? None.

7. What are prospects for buckwheat flow? None here.

8. How has swarming been this year? Not much.

In reply would say that I gave my bees combs for top story early and succeeded in getting nearly all to go up them. I placed a second story between the former one after the bees had it partly filled. Had only a few swarms. I secured over 100 lbs. of honey from some of the hives.

F. C. FREEMAN.

Newboro, Leeds Co., Ont.

SIRS,—Yours of the 8th to hand re honey season.

1. Swarming on the whole for '95 about 20 per cent. and not enough to fill winter vacancies. Swarming was lively about a week when clover first came in, then slackened suddenly.

2. Where sheltered they came out well, but in exposed places were either drifted under too deep and got too warm, or suffered depletion if no snow lay on them. In cellars where many were kept, spring dwindling set in.

3. Constant warm and dry weather this year proved very favorable in early spring and gave bees a good start.

4. Not quite as abundant as last year, probably on account of the dry weather last year. Not nearly the average acreage under alsike, especially from last years sowing. And somehow seeds have failed to germinate this year, too dry just in seed-ing time.

5. We happened to have three or four cold drizzly days here when basswood was at its best and so only got a little over half or three-fourths what we would have had; about half what it was in 1894, and eight times as much as last year.

6. Just a trace, farmers don't half grow them around here.

7. Very good, this constant hot weather will probably make the season short.

8. More than last year, as it increased as the season advanced.

The basswood flow was followed so closely by early buckwheat which was allowed to bloom a few days previous to being ploughed under (as a fertilizer), that most of it, if left to ripen or be sealed by the bees, got a little dark honey among it.

R. F. WHITESIDE.

Little Britain, Aug. 12, 1896.

In replying to your questions of the 8th, I presume they all refer to this season except the first.

1. Not over 3 per cent. some had more.

2. First-class.

3. Never better.
4. Very light.
5. Very good.
6. Little or nothing.
7. None.
8. 100 per cent.

Bees wintered well in this vicinity, came out weak in bees but clean and healthy. I never saw such a spring, never a break from the time the snow went off to the present writing, as regards open weather.

Swarming commenced about the 20th of May. The only drawback was the dry weather. No rain here until the 15th of June, and clover was nearly over then.

I never saw a better bloom of basswood than this year, but the weather was a little too dry and cool at the first part of the bloom, but the latter part yielded well.

Thistles are not grown extensively enough here to get a crop of honey from them.

Buckwheat never yields here except an hour or so in the morning. The demand for honey first-class this season; am nearly sold out. The quality is A 1, very light in color and thick in body.

A. E. SHERRINGTON.

Walkerton, Bruce Co., Ont.

1. But few.
2. Good, except those that starved, and from that cause the number of colonies was much reduced.
3. A 1, extra.
4. Moderate.
5. A great fizzle, when taking the very big and abundant show into account.
6. For about six days after the basswood bloom it was big enough and the quality good enough to please and satisfy any apiarist.
7. This being my first experience with the dark and odorous commodity, I am not a judge, but from appearances of some bees I have eight and a half miles from home, that are just doing a big stroke of business on it, I think the crop will be big.
8. Excessive.

J. B. HALL.

Woodstock, Oxford Co., Ont.

1. How was swarming last year (1895)? Good.
2. How did the bees winter in your vicinity? Well.
3. How did the bees build up in the spring. Fairly well.
4. How has the clover flow been? Very good.
5. How has the basswood flow been? Good.
6. How has the thistle flow been? —

7. What are the prospects for buckwheat flow? Excellent.

8. How has swarming been this year? Good.

A. R. McRAE.

Bear Brook, Russell Co., Ont.

Your favor to hand, I will answer questions in order.

1. No swarms last year.
2. With me good, I cannot speak for others.
3. Good.
4. Large flow of clover.
5. Little basswood in country.
6. Thistle flow moderate.
7. Buckwheat not coming in good, probably enough for wintering.
8. Plenty of swarms this year where swarming is allowed. I prevent it largely. We have a good deal of wild mustard in vicinity. Also peas gave a good flow.

B. H. COOK.

Pickering, Ontario Co., Ont.

Will you be so kind as to allow me space in your valuable journal to give a short account of the season and the work in this locality,

To do this, it may be necessary to notice very briefly the work of last year. As all bee-keepers are fully aware, the season of 1895 was a peculiar one; a short crop and very little swarming, the increase amounting to scarcely 25 per cent, and the honey crop recorded an average of 70 pounds per colony, spring count. Of this amount of honey probably 40 per cent. was from fall flowers. And right here I shall take the opportunity of saying that the sowing of sweet clover along railway tracks and in all waste places is as good an investment as bee-keepers can make. As a result of the long-continued fall flow the bees went into winter quarters in good shape and wintered with very slight loss. They built up fairly well this spring, but when the clover flow commenced the colonies had a very violent attack of swarming fever, the result of which was an increase of about 75 per cent with an average of 20 pounds per colony of clover honey. The linden opening gave promise of great things, and "our people" managed to secure for us an average of 15 pounds from that source. Then followed the thistle, yielding an average of 25 pounds per colony. The flow from golden rod, buckwheat, etc., will not be less than 10 pounds per colony.

MATHEW B. HOLMES

Athens, Leeds Co., Ont., Aug. 15, 1895.

Yours of the 8th inst. received and contents carefully noted. I will try to give you all the experience I have. I am glad to hear about The Bee Journal. I have kept a few bees for 8 years, but have never got much of a return for my trouble except in the way of smothering off a few swarms which was a hard thing for me to do. So last year (1895) I thought to try the improved hive to see if I could make bee-keeping pay. In that spring I bought out five old hives and in the fall, I put away four old hives and six improved ones. But owing to my ignorance of bee wintering I nearly froze them to death by letting too much draft through the hive, and I did not cushion them and had a hard job to keep them from dwindling this spring ('96). However, I have twenty-three good strong hives to winter over this year. I think this is an excellent year for honey, and '95 was much better than '94. I will have quite a lot of honey for market from my bees, although I am only building up my colony. I have A. I. Root's, A. B. C., but still I think if you were with me an hour you would tell me I had done well by increasing my stock over double. I did not attempt any artificial swarming, but after one of the old hives swarmed I put an improved hive on top of the old one, and when they got working and had some brood in them, I set them to one side and put on another instead. As a surplus box they will make some honey and, I will winter the old box again this winter. I may say that my bees do not like section boxes as well as the framed. Shallow frames 4, 5 or 6 inches deep are just the thing, they go right to work in them. I have no extractor yet and my honey is badly mixed, and buckwheat coming in spoils all of it. But it is honey anyhow, and if not fit for market will use it at home. I fear that the super boxes that I got last spring are a failure, they are not like the ones I got before. The lines between were straight and the bees could not get a passage through them, but I have not examined all yet and in the one I took off there were two rows stuck together, the liners were cut straight instead of slotted, like the old ones. Thanking you for your call for contribution I offer these few lines for this time, and will mark the map as best as I can.

A. R. McRAE.

Dear Brook, Aug. 13th, 1896.

1. How was swarming last year (1895)?

2. How did the bees winter in your vicinity? Good.

3. How did bees build up in the spring? Rapidly.

4. How has the clover flow been? Scarce.

5. How has the basswood flow been? No. 1.

6. How has the thistle flow been? None.

7. What are prospects for buckwheat flow? Good.

8. How has swarming been this year? Good.

WM. GRAHAM.

Moncklands Station, Stormont Co., Ont.

I have filled the paper you sent me as correctly as I know how and will give you the reason of the failure in bees and honey. Last year (in 1895) the bees came out all right, I never had them better. The hard frosts in May destroyed all clover, both white and alsike, the plums and cherries were nearly all destroyed. The apples didn't yield any nectar, so the bees soon began to fail, there was nothing for them to get; they stopped breeding. The old bees died off very fast, there was no young ones to take their places, and what few their was left in some of the hives would swarm out and go into others, they kept at that all summer and in the fall their were very few left. I think in this neighbourhood about 9/10 went to the wall, I had two lost out of twenty seven. I feel more encouraged now to try again. The two hives I got of you last spring have done uncommonly well. I had eight good swarms from them, all in good shape for wintering. Now I didn't extract any honey this season, but kept building up the late swarms from the old ones, I want to increase as fast as I can so as to get started again. I have taken 30 full sections out of one of the hives I got of you and the other will have 30 more in a few days. If the frost keeps off there will be plenty of buckwheat pasture for six weeks. I don't know when they are going to stop swarming this season. A neighbour of mine told me he had the best swarm last Saturday he has had this season. I had one on Tuesday and am looking for more every day. I have to watch them now just as much as I did a month ago.

G. L. PEARSON.

Clarksburg, Ont.

In answer to the bee questions which you ask me. In 1895 I only heard of two swarms of bees in this vicinity. There are few people that keep bees around here, but they are all kept in the old way and so it seems they want to keep that way. I keep telling them if they don't put any money in them, they can't expect to get any out. They all think the little fellows ought to make

them a lot of money, whether there is honey to get or not. Many bees did not swarm anything to brag of last year, but wintered well. There were a great many bees lost around me. They would not spend 5 cents on the little bee to make him snug for the cold nights of winter; and you can't tell them anything—they have kept bees all their life-time, and that is the way father kept them. My bees wintered well, and built up well in the Spring. The clover flow has been good this year. I can't speak so well for the basswood, but I think in some places it was somewhat better than around here. As the thistle crop is kept down around here, I can't speak much for them. The buckwheat crop has just started; and it seems to be good this year. The bees have swarmed well, and are in good shape for winter.

CHARLES STANGER.

Rebecca, Middlesex Co., Ont.

1. How was swarming last year (1895)? Not any.
2. How did the bees winter in your vicinity? Very poor.
3. How did bees build up in the spring? They were very weak.
4. How has the clover flow been? Very good.
5. How has the basswood flow been? Very good.
6. How has the thistle flow been? Very good.
7. What are prospects for buckwheat flow? Very good.
8. How has swarming been this year? Very good.

G. L. Pearson.

Clarksburg, Grey Co., Ont.

As the wintering problem will soon trouble us again I wish to give you some of my experience, and also ask your advice as to my bee cellar. I wintered 19 outside, packed in clamps with sawdust around them, about 3 inches in front, 6 to 10 inches on top and at the back. The quilts were not disturbed; the entrances were all sizes from 3x5 inches to 3x10 inches, but the hallways were not always as wide as the hive entrance. I was particular to keep the entrances free from snow. All wintered well and came out strong.

My cellar is a room under my dwelling, which is built on a bank of gravel, and there is no drain required from the cellar. I was particular to have the walls built of land stone, as I understood river stone was liable to sweat. The bee room which is

one of three, is 2x2 and the furnace smoke pipes passes across one end of it. As I found this made it too warm I partitioned off about five feet of the end where the pipe passes through, and put a door in the partition, which I open and shut to regulate the temperature of the room. There is one window with a pit outside which is loosely covered with boards, and a stovepipe in the boards for ventilation. The window is hung from the top so that by a rope running over the hives to the door it can be opened as desired. There was always a little light from this window, about enough to count the hives by, except in the corners of the room, but the bees did not attempt to fly to it. The hives were drawn back so as to project about two inches behind the bottom boards, and the sealed quilts were left on, no cushions were used.

On moving them in I found four very weak hives and I fed them about one month after putting them in; ten pounds of syrup each, made in the usual way (I always boil mine). I fed in Jones and Miller feeders. The bees soon took down the feed, and I gave them a fly one warm day. Finding later on that these four hives seemed still too light I gave them each another ten pounds of syrup. They came through first class. I put 25 hives in the cellar and only lost two, and they died of starvation; the rest came out clean and nice. I should have stated I kept the temperature as near 45° as possible, and found no difficulty in raising or lowering it until April, when I could not keep it below 50°, and I then took them out. I swept off the dead bees from the floor after the hives were carried out and found they weighed just nine pounds. I suppose one pound of that would be due off the cement floor. Now, although the bees came out in good shape from the cellar they were not to be compared to those wintered outside. I estimate there were more bees in two of the hives wintered outside than in any three of those in the cellar at any time up to July, after that there was not so much difference.

There are two things on which I would like your opinion. Is there any advantage in raising the hives on blocks over simply drawing them back so that they project over the bottom boards, and in the case of a dry cellar which can be warmed to a certain extent like mine, are cushions of any use?

In view of my experience I don't think sealed stores are very important except in damp cellars.

J. D. EVANS

Islington, York Co., Ont., Aug. 17, 1895

1. In 1895 we had an average on one swarm from 20 colonies, the majority of colonies not gathering enough for winter.

2. Our own never wintered better, but most of the bee-keepers in our locality lost heavily. In some cases all losses were due principally to lack of stores and neglect to properly fit them for winter last fall.

3. Never better; in fact the honey flow has never ceased from Spring until now.

4. Moderate

5. The same may be said of basswood; not as heavy as some years.

6. The thistle flow came early; worked on them about as soon as on basswood, and they gathered some after it was done.

7. Good at present, August 17, as they are beginning to store some. We grow our buckwheat by ploughing up a meadow as soon as the hay crop is off, and thus manage to get three crops in a year—a crop of hay, a crop of buckwheat for pig and chicken feed and a crop of honey, when it yields.

8. Early and excessive where means were not taken to check it. We are now having a second batch of swarms. The hives are as full of brood as they usually are in June.

E. M. HUSBAND

Fairgorn, Middlesex Co., Ont.

Very few swarms last year. Bees wintered very well last winter and dwindled down bad in the spring. Not many worker bees when the clover blossomed, and received about half a crop of clover honey. Very little basswood honey, as the basswoods are very scarce. Not much thistle honey. Prospects for buckwheat not very good, weather too dry and hot. A good deal of swarms this year. Commenced the season with about 140 colonies; extracted 6,600 of white honey over and basswood; increased them to 200 colonies; have not extracted any buckwheat honey yet; don't expect to get much, as the bees are about quit working on the buckwheat on account of dry weather.

T J WEBSTER.

Blackwood, Victoria Co., Aug 11, 1896.

In regards to questions asked on slip:

1. Swarming in 1895 was very light, having only two colonies out of ten swarm each.

2. In wintering they did fairly well, but only died, but two others were robbed early in spring. My process was long chaff boxes each holding eight hives side by side.

3. After taking them out in spring they came along nicely and swarmed early.

4. The clover honey being rather short in season rather disabled the old hives for that season.

5. The basswood has been comparatively good, but season short.

6. There appears to be any amount of buckwheat sown around the vicinity, and prospects for lots of honey from that source.

8. Swarming this year in these parts, with very few exceptions, has been very free. Having a few old colonies myself which I could not draw, have swarmed four or five times, but these were old stock. When I got them the combs were built crosswise.

Honey sells here from five to eight cents.

J. A. RODMAN.

Port Perry, Ontario Co., Aug. 18, 1896.

In answer to the questions which you have sent out, I would say:

1. The honey season of 1895 was a complete failure in this section of the province. I had only one colony which cast a swarm.

2. The majority of colonies in this vicinity wintered very poorly. Want of stores was the principal cause. A good many of the smaller bee-keepers have given up the business as a bad job.

3. Any colonies which were wintered outside built up much faster in the spring than those wintered in the bee-house or cellar. Those wintered in the bee-house spring-dwindled badly, and some heavy losses are reported. I never experienced such a fine spring for brood rearing, colonies which were in good shape built up very rapidly, and swarming commenced early.

4. The flow from clover has been very good and the quality is extra fine.

5. Basswood did remarkably well, the bloom lasted for about three weeks. My flow of honey from clover and basswood averaged 70 pounds per colony, spring count.

6. Owing to dry weather during thistle bloom and the good farmers keeping them down, the flow did not amount to very much. Farmers do not like to see a good crop of thistles like bee-keepers.

7. Very little buckwheat grown in this vicinity, consequently we have no honey from that source.

8. Swarming has been good and commenced early. I have increased my stock 100 per cent.

ALBERT FYFE

Wellington Apiary, Harriston, Ont.

I have much pleasure in reporting a good honey season in this locality, perhaps not as good as '94, but much better than last year. I have three strains of bees, Black, Italian and Five Banded (which I understand are Cyprians. Am I right?). The Italians did the best work of all. The basswood yielded very little this season, but clover better than usual.

E. S. GOUDGE.

Halifax, N. S., Aug. 14, 1896.

1. How was swarming last year (1895)? Below average.
 2. How did the bees winter in your vicinity? Very good.
 3. How did the bees build up in spring? Good.
 4. How has the clover flow been? Fair.
 5. How has the basswood flow been? Full bloom.
 6. How has the thistle flow been? Above average.
 7. What are the prospects for buckwheat flow? Good.
 8. How has swarming been this year? Above average.
- P. S.—Aug. 16, buckwheat and weather has been fine up to date. Bloom about half through. Have obtained 30 pounds average per colony to date.

W. A. PEARSON.

Sacolle, Que.

1. How was swarming last year (1895)? Good.
 2. How did the bees winter in your vicinity? Good.
 3. How did bees build up in the Spring? Good.
 4. How has the clover flow been? Good.
 5. How has the basswood flow been? Good.
 6. How has the thistle flow been? Good.
 7. What are prospects for buckwheat flow? Good.
 8. How has swarming been this year? Good.
- Swarming good this year. One new swarm came off the 12th of June. She was one of your queens. No 1 ft has made for me 84 pounds of box honey in eight weeks' time, and also had her box full—full at the bottom—and at this writing she has 44 more sections on and they are very near full. One of the queens was a good one, the other was good for nothing last year. This is all I can think of interest.

Respectfully yours

L. ADAMS.

Casselman, Russell Co., Ont.

In reply to your circular letter of 8th inst., I will answer your queries by number as they are put:

- 1 Our bees did not swarm much last year.
- 2 Bees wintered fairly.
- 3 Building up in Spring was very rapid.
- 4 There was no surplus from clover in this vicinity.
- 5 The flow from basswood heaviest I have ever known.
- 6 Nothing from thistle; farmers obstinately and persistently refuse to cultivate this plant, notwithstanding a knowledge of the fact that beekeepers are losers thereby.
7. I think the prospect for a good flow from buckwheat is favorable.
- 8 With regard to swarming, our bees increased from 45 to 95 colonies.

FRED HAMM.

Bath, Lennox Co., Ont.

In my own apiary I commenced the season of 1895 with 25 colonies of bees, a few of which were not strong; they were in the Jones hive. I got 35 pounds of honey per colony, Spring count, with increase of 5. After August 1st the weather set in very dry, bees could gather nothing; brood-rearing ceased, and very little honey in the brood chambers. I transferred them into Langstroth hives and fed them up for winter. I built a new cellar last summer 18x26 of stone, leaving four air chambers built of brick at the back of the wall on the floor, having the air coming in on the cellar floor. I placed the bees in the cellar on November 20. I placed them 16 inches from the cellar floor, with the back end of the hive raised three inches higher than the front. The thermometer registered 40° all winter, and the bees kept very quiet, never hearing any hum. Sometimes I thought they were all dead. I took them from the cellar April 11 and placed them on summer stands, and they took a cleaning flight. There was no spotting of hives, nor signs of dysentery. On the following day, being favorable, the bees were examined; found no brood, and a few of the queens just started to lay. The weather then being fine, they built up very quickly. The first week in May the bees were strong, and the weather being fine, I began to spread brood, and by June 1st the hives were full of bees. Supers were placed on to keep down swarming, and they came up, and by June 10th the colonies began to give honey. We got 30 pounds extract honey per colony from clover, and there being no spring frosts, basswood gave a very good yield—32 pounds.

colony, but poor prospects of any fall flow, as the weather has been very warm and dry. Total, 62 pounds per colony, with 20 of increase for ending the season of 1896.

GEORGE E. JOHNSTON.

Bracebridge, P. O., Muskoka, Ont.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your circular of August 8th:

- 1 Swarming in 1895 was not very good.
- 2 Bees wintering—Did not hear of any losses.
- 3 Built up in Spring not very good; weather very cold.
- 4 Clover flow fair to good; have seen better.
- 5 Basswood flow only middling.
- 6 Thistle flow, cannot say.
- 7 Buckwheat flow, extra good.
- 8 Swarming this year, extra good.

W A INGLIS.

Wakenham, Lanark Co, Ont, Aug 17, 1896.

Swarming last year was not very good. Bees wintered with me good; one swarm out of 87; lost some after setting out in Spring by not having time to attend to them, time of Spring work; but there was general complaint that they did not winter well with others, some lost all. My bees did not build up well in the Spring. Clover flow was good while it lasted, but was short on account of dry weather; and the clover was not plentiful on account of last year's drought. Bees did not do anything on basswood this year—very little in this neighborhood. Thistles not of much account, not grown much in this vicinity. Prospects for buckwheat are good; it is coming in by the hundred weight every day the last week. If it keeps on I expect between 3000 and 4000 pounds of Golden rod and buckwheat honey mixed. Swarming this year was on average easy control in my yards. Honey flow stopped very sudden; some that have only a few swarms a few miles away, swarmed three or four times. I have 1400 pounds extracted, and about 300 pounds comb, 78 swarms, spring count. That is not good, it has been worse, and I have over three that to the hive.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN L. GROSJEAN,

Wakenham, Northumberland Co., Ont.,
Aug 17th, 1896.

Not many swarms, excepting from old box hive.

Bees wintered well. I lost none.

Bees built up fast in early spring;

principally from dandelion, which is very plentiful here.

4. The clover flow has been fairly good all through the season.

5. Basswood bloomed very freely, but the bees did not appear to get much honey from it, this year.

6. Much honey has been collected from thistle bloom, and bees are still collecting some nectar from the second bloom.

7. Buckwheat is of very little importance here, as no great quantity is grown.

8. There has been considerably more swarming this year (1896) than last year (1895).

Last year (1895) the main crop of honey was obtained from the wild raspberry bloom, which was very abundant, and thistle which is also very abundant. Basswood bloom had been completely destroyed by the heavy spring frosts. This year (1896) there was very little raspberry bloom, and honey did not come in freely till later in the season than usual.

JOS. KINDER.

Rockingham, T'p Brudenell, Renfrew Co.,
Ont., Aug. 17th, 1896.

Yours of the 8th to hand. You want me to give you an account of how my bees done last year. I consider swarming was very good for 1895, considering the kind of season, for the early frosts killed all the clover and after that the drought was something terrible around here; it is a wonder that our bees existed at all, however, the colony I got from you which arrived here sometime in June, threw out two swarms in July. The bees which remained in the old hive done no more good after the second swarm came off; they lost their queen somehow, and as I was seldom at home they got leave to remain in that way until fall. I put them in with the second swarm, but in doing so, I found the working bees had dwindled away to a mere handful, but any amount of drones. As the second swarm had not got their eight frames filled with comb I took out the empty ones and filled up the hive with the last comb out of the hive. I had taken the bees and packed them away in that way for the winter. The colony I lost, I blame myself for it, but the other colony came out all right. I merely saw that they had plenty of stores and packed them away along side the other out in the snow, so when I lost one that left me only one to start with. The spring of 1896 my bees were gathering pollen in April. They threw off the first swarm in the latter part of May, the second in ten days after and the third inside of thirty-six

hours after the second, and the fourth swarm 1st of August, so you see my old colony threw of four swarms, besides I took three frames well filled from them and they are at present in pretty good shape for winter. I started in April, 1896, with one colony, to-day I have ten colonies all strong and one swarm I lost, or I would have eleven from one. Can you beat that? Bees will winter well here, if properly put away. My bees appeared to build up pretty fast in spring. They appear to me to bring most of their store from the woods at present, although I have buckwheat in bloom and the blossoms alive with wild bees, the most of my bees take to the woods. In regard to the clover, basswood and thistle flows I cannot answer your questions satisfactorily, as I have been away from home the greater part of the summer and of course I took no honey from my bees, only those three frames. But the prospects as far as I can see are good, and good also for buckwheat. JAS. BAYNE.

McKellar, Parry Sound District, Ont.,
Aug. 14th, 1896.

The Paragon of Exhibitions.

The major part of the entries having now been made for Toronto's big exhibition, which is to be held from August 31st to September 12th, it is possible to state definitely that the scale of the exhibition will really be greater than ever. Never before did the exhibits cover such a wide range as they will this year. It almost looks as if every province had striven to do its best to make the exhibition worthy of the country. This, of course, is not only patriotic, but is intensely gratifying, because it shows when the material prosperity of the Dominion is concerned, sectional differences are forgotten. At the forthcoming exhibition in Toronto there will be seen food products of Prince Edward Island; food products, manufactures, fruit and live stock, of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; an extensive display of horses and cattle, manufactures and minerals from Quebec; the products of forests, waters, mines, gardens, farms, studs, workshops, and art studios of Ontario; the grain, minerals and horses of Manitoba; the grain and minerals of the Northwest; and cereals, fish and minerals of British Columbia. The governments of Ontario, the Dominion and British Columbia will make special exhibits of the wealth of the earth, while the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. will supplement these displays by showing cereals, vegetables and minerals from

many points on their lines, to the extent of double what the Company has shown in other years. In art especially will the exhibition be strong, with the three pictures painted by F. M. Bell-Smith, illustrating incidents connected with the death of Sir John Thompson, at Windsor Castle, for one of which pictures Her Majesty the Queen, Princess Beatrice and members of the royal household, gave special sittings. There will be Edison's wonderful Eidoloscope, an electric theatre; Ontario Trotting Horse Breeders' stake races; Lockhart's performing elephants; the magnificent historical spectacle, entitled the "Feast of Nations" and commemorating the "Taking of the Bastille," and a thousand and one other things; while in consideration of the cattle being on the first week the railways have agreed to grant one fare for the round trip for the entire exhibition from all points in Canada, and to run a special cheap excursion the first week, on Sept. 3rd, and two the second week.

Honey Fruit-Cake.

Four eggs, five cups of flour, two cups of honey, one cup of butter, one cup of sweet milk, two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar, one teaspoonful of soda, one pound of raisins, one pound of currants, half a pound of citron, one teaspoonful each of cloves, cinnamon and nutmeg. Bake in a slow oven.—September Ladies' Home Journal.

IN ARREARS.

Some of our friends are behind in their subscription to this Journal. They can find out how they stand by looking up the July issue.

We need the money due.

The season has been a fairly good one and you should be able to pay the printer.

If you are a "past due" please remit the amount in arrears at once.

We are working hard and putting lots of material into the Journal; (more than we get out) and every subscriber to do his or her part.

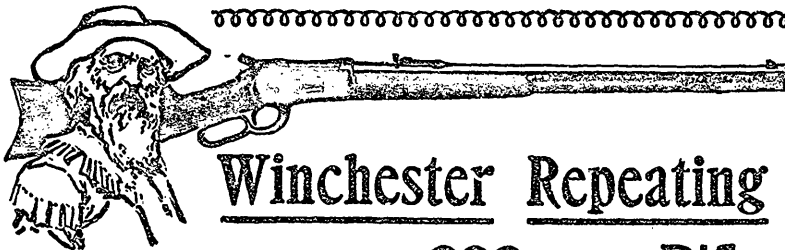
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