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# THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

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

VOL. VIII, No. II. BEETON, ONT., SEPT. 1, 1892. WHOLE No. 319

## GENERAL.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Mr. Holtermann's Visit.—Photo of My Apiary, &c.

I WAS quite pleased to have that visit from Mr. Holtermann, as recorded by myself in your issue of the 15th ulto., and also flattered at the complimentary manner in which he informed your readers of the condition of the apiary, &c.

I had been contemplating, for some time previous to Mr. Holtermann's arrival, having a 10x12 photo taken of the apiary, and am now consequently able to present you with one, which I send by this mail. But as I do not expect all the readers of the JOURNAL, will have a peep at it, I hope you may think sufficiently of it to have it framed and placed on exhibition at Toronto, as I think it will compare favorably in its equipment and general appearance with any other apiary of its size (at present sixty colonies) in Canada.

You will, of course, observe that the picture is very distinct, showing not only the hive numbers, but also the names of most of the prominent bee-keepers in Canada and the U. S., including, as a matter of course Mr. D. A. Jones. You will perceive, too, the Langstroth observing hive made for me in 1863, and the position it occupies in the apiary; and no doubt you will concur with me that it is where it rightly belongs, viz: first and foremost in the row. The solar extractor, tool, and queen cage boxes, Millers' feeder, hive cart, &c., are all quite prominent, all being properly labelled, and

in complete harmony with the other surroundings. The L.S. on a number of the hives specifies the Langstroth half-strey super, which I advocate, and find very convenient under some circumstances. The letter H. stands for Heddon.



F. A. GEMMELL, STRATFORD.

I think it needless to go further into particulars, as the photo speaks for itself. It might not, however, be out of place to state, that no special arranging or preparation of the apiary was made for the purpose except that the ladies "got ready" as most ladies do under similar circumstances, and with this explanation I will now introduce you to the members,

comprising my temporary family, as Mr. Holtermann found them while here.

First figure to the right is Belle, who assists in the household and also in the honey-house when necessary. The second is my son (aged 16) who, on account of the way the sun was shining, looks more like a native of Africa than a blonde of Canada. The third is his mother; the fourth, my sister; the fifth, my mother; the sixth, my daughter (13), and the cow boy, sitting in the chair, is the chap, who, up to date, has done all the wiring of frames, but who now thinks he will take the Brantford friend's advice, and teach (they have not yet learned) some of the younger fry to at least assist him in future.

The remaining figure (lady) is Mrs. Gemmell's mother, or to be more explicit, my worthy mother-in-law, who is paying us a Kathleen Mavourneen visit.

"It may be for years and it may be forever."

But to resume the first portion of my subject, I will mention that it was a matter of regret to me that I could not spend more time with Mr. H. on that occasion, as my other duties compelled my absence from home most of the day. He was, therefore, left to the tender mercies of Mrs. G. and the other half dozen of the family, which, rather unfortunately for him, comprised six ladies, so that he, like a sensible man in such a predicament, concluded that discretion was "the better part of valor," and hid himself away to the Messrs. Myers Bros. minus his dinner, notwithstanding entreaties to remain, only to find they were more or as much in favor of the wiring system as myself.

In conclusion, I may state that I am gratified he is going to pay Mr. Deadman, of Brussels, a visit soon, as I am satisfied the gentleman whose name denotes anything but life, will so arouse Mr. H. from his lethargy that he will forever advocate, instead of condemn, the wiring of frames under any circumstances.

Mr. Holtermann, you are welcome back again to Stratford, and in fact any or all others who may favor me with a call, as an exchange of views often brings out ideas that would otherwise remain dormant. By the way, I have to thank Mr. and Mrs. Davis, of Lucan, for their friendly call on Monday last. The latter, I think, can very properly be termed one of the foremost of our lady apiarists.

F. A. GEMMILL.

Stratford, Aug. 25th, 1892.

[We are sorry to say that our illustration of Mr. Gemmell's apiary had not been received up to the moment of going to press. It will appear, however, in our next issue.]

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Honey - Weather - Women - Escapes - World's Fair - Bee Journals, and Father Langstroth.

THE take of light honey this season has scarcely been a success in this district.

All the reports I have heard have been unfavorable. This has not been owing to lack of bloom of clover and basswood, which was abundant, but chiefly to the unfavorable spring and considerable unfavorable weather during the bloom. Fall honey, mostly buckwheat, is now, however, coming in rapidly (August 20th), and has been for some days past; and this can at any rate replace much of the light honey for wintering.

#### THE WEATHER.

We had some exceedingly hot weather in July, and are now having some melting hot weather in August. At any rate the heat and work have, if not melted, at least wilted, the manager and manipulator of the "Richmond Apiary," and he is now under cover for "rest and repairs," and the attainment of a lower temperature. He writes this in bed—greeting! There has been a "strike" and the mill is closed—not up exactly, but in. When the workman strikes he has not always a good reason for doing so. When, however, my own factory strikes, most of its members "going out," it has good reason—not on 10 hours indeed, but 16, and 95° in the shade.

#### WOMEN.

I approach my "3dly," as the preachers would say, "with fear and trembling." Just as I expected, when I used my quill lately in THE JOURNAL on "women in office," I put my foot in it with some of the ladies—the strong ones. It is something little less than awful to fall into the hands (I do not mean arms) of a woman—that is, of a woman's tongue or pen. This is what has befallen me; and may I get a safe deliverance! On this "woman question" I have "Maud Morris" to reckon with—whether Miss Morris or Mrs. Morris I cannot say (C.B.J. June 15th, page 81). If, therefore, I call the lady simple "Maud Morris" she will not be offended.

I never cared to argue seriously on tangled questions with a woman, because, though she might be lovely, she would not be logical,—for although she might most handsomely feel her way through a problem to the solution, (her own solution), she but seldom would reason her way through it. In mathematics something more than intuition is required, and in philosophy something more than instinct. However, I like

Maud's style, and admire her cleverness and spirited championship of her sex, but I seem to fail in duly appreciating or understanding her logic. She says:—"A misconception of her" ("Mrs. Potter Palmer,"—"Lady Manager.") "position on the part of Mr. Pringle makes his premises false, and his deductions therefrom erroneous."

This is certainly queer logic. In the first place I said nothing at all about either "Mrs. Potter Palmer" or a "Lady Manager." I spoke of a "Board of Lady Managers." And even had I taken or stated the "misconception" Maud Morris refers to, that would not have altered my argument in the least, as it neither constituted the premise nor conclusion of the

see our English brethren have what they call "super-clearers," serving the same purpose, but not nearly so well. And here we may give the slow and conservative Englishman another nudge, and tell him distinctly that we are ahead again. His "super-clearer" empties the bees through a "simp'e cone" out through the "hive roofs" into the open air. Of course daylight is necessary for that process.

Our "escape" empties the bees into the hive below the super, where they ought to be; and the work of expatriation can go on all night—just the time for it. You see the point, John Bull.

WORLD'S FAIR.

I see our good friend, Mr. Awrey, Canadian



ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.

argument. My contention as to woman's place and status in nature and the world would stand all the same whether the women had anything to do with the World's Fair or not.

Maud assures us that—"As knowledge increases and civilization advances, woman's right to rule is conceded," (yes, by themselves)—"even her qualification to make laws to govern man is acknowledged" (also by herself).

#### BEE ESCAPES.

These are very useful articles; but instead of one we want several in each board. This will duly expedite the exit of the super denizens. I

Commissioner, is fairly booming things in his line, and the honey is in of course. Mr. Awrey (with whom I have the pleasure of a personal acquaintance, having met him year after year at the meetings of the Central Farmer's Institute in Toronto) is a farmer and M.P.P., and from what I know of him I feel confident that the apiarists of Ontario who may exhibit at Chicago next year will find him ready and willing to serve them in his official capacity as commissioner. Our two governments are also doing their duty in the premises so far as I know. It remains for the bee-keepers of Ontario to do

theirs. And for their own sake, and the credit of Ontario bee-culture, I hope and trust they will do so. I beg to specially direct the attention of the readers of the C.B.J. to the advice and suggestions given by friend Corneil in last issue (August 15th) on this subject. Both are timely and valuable, I had intended to refer to some of them in this letter, but am very glad that Mr. Corneil is already before you with them.

## BEE JOURNALS.

These seem to be coming and going—being born and dying, same as all other mundane things. But it cannot be said that the shuffled-off ones die hard. In Canada, however, we have had no birth or death lately (though signs of the former are not wanting whiles), and as the

Hold the fort and walks the course alone,  
'Midst births and deaths its place is fairly won.

In the Rural Californian I find a merited word of approbation. Mr. C. N. Wilson, the editor of the apiarian department of that paper, while noting the fact that of the "issuing of apiarian papers, there is and will be no end," says:—"THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL has improved in every way during the past year, and is a useful and consistent paper." Well spoken, Mr. Wilson. We would lend our influence and support to none other than a useful and consistent paper.

## FATHER LANGSTROTH.

No one can read this worthy old man's touching account (which has appeared in the JOURNAL lately) of his afflictions and sufferings during many long years without feeling his sympathies (if he have any) deeply moved. If our venerable apiarian friend could be induced to carry out non-professional advice, and follow an unorthodox prescription, I am thoroughly convinced that relief, or comparative immunity from his affliction in the future, is possible and within his reach. But advice is cheap—opinions plenty. There is a maxim that advice, and salt at table, are two things which should never be offered without the asking. But I pay no attention to maxims unless they are good. In this case I am bound to give our old friend my advice whether followed or not. My duty will then be done. True, I have no "parochment," but the parchment I could have had in a six or nine months more study, as I was so assured by the president of the best medical school which modern enlightenment has produced, viz., the "Hygieo-Therapeutic" or Hygienic. I was then 35; am now over 50, and

have learned a great deal since. Thus the presumption of egotism in advising may not be quite so real as apparent.

Now, my respected old friend, the time to begin to ward off future attacks of your sore affliction is when you are well and in your lucid and happy intervals. Bring all your habits every day of your life into as close accord with the laws of physiology and hygiene as it is possible to do. One of the most false and fatal doctrines in the public mind is this: that the laws of health may be constantly violated in our every-day lives, and then, when the accumulated consequences come, they may be escaped or done away with by swallowing drugs and doing sundry other things. The answer to this is—never—never!

The consequences of violated law in the human organism can never be escaped. The victim can only make the best use of the constitution or vitality he has left. Let every mortal remember that. But I need not remind our intelligent old friend of that great truth, only to state, what he also knows, that but few of those who do realize it act upon it, for here is where the greatest wisdom, the highest life comes in—self-denial, self-discipline, self-command—sacrificing a little and reaping a great deal in return. This, then, my friend, is the first thing to do; now, while you are in health of body and strength of mind, bring the whole life into harmony with the inexorable laws which govern it. Then let any special treatment you may take be hygienic instead of drugopathic. Depend not on drugs, or even prayers. Depend on what (you are an educated man) we will call the *vis medicatrix naturae*. You evidently have by nature an unusually strong constitution upon which you can confidently rely in following out the remedial course indicated, even at your advanced age. Your rectal difficulty to which you refer, and which is, no doubt, the chief cause of the mental troubles, can be quite overcome, unless there are chronic mechanical displacements, which the surgeon might correct.

The Dr. Hall remedy, so much talked about, and now an open secret, of "flushing" the bowels and kidneys, and cleansing the whole alimentary canal, would, without doubt, come in in your case as a powerful auxiliary in the hygienic and physiological regimen prescribed. But do not, like many others, depend too much on that. The trouble with that remedy is that too much is claimed for it and expected from it. Let all those concerned remember that no one remedy or process is a cure-all in restoring the sick to health. While the

Hall remedy is valuable (though not altogether new) it must take its place as but one among other hygienic agencies equally important and valuable—such as eating, drinking, bathing, breathing, exercising, mental, moral and magnetic influences, etc., etc. Dr. Hall not only claims too much for his remedy but carries it too far—advises what I call excess. Except in very unusual cases once or twice a week, instead of every day, is enough for that process.

If you use tobacco, tea, coffee, spirituous liquors of any kind, or any other such stimulant or narcotic, give them all up—every one of them. A little present self-denial for a great ultimate good. For table coffee drink the kaoka—home made. Let your diet be sparing, plain, and wholesome, but nutritious,—derived from the grains and fruits. Leave meat severely alone, especially salted meats. Never eat bakers' or any other body's fine flour bread. The whole kernel of the wheat, except the outside husk, ground up into flour or meal, is the thing for bread—not only for invalids but all others. Bathe freely, breathe deeply, which you can do at will, whether you are able to take physical exercise or not. Get fresh, pure air night and day, summer and winter. Swallow no medicines—no drugs—no poisons of any kind. Keep mind contented and happy.

Should you have the opportunities and be able at your age to command the will-power to follow the advice given, you will be restored if anything can restore you.

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### Well Ripened Honey.

THE closing sentence of Mr. Corneil's article forms the text of a subject I have had upon the end of my pen for some time, and to-day a postal card from Mr. Allen Pringle, wherein he speaks of his honey being hardly ripe enough to take off, gives me encouragement to speak along the line I propose to touch. The tendency in the price of honey is certainly downward, and that being the case, it should be our aim to find out the reason, and if possible remedy it. Without going into this phase of the question fully, I venture to make the assertion that if we aimed at pleasing every customer more than we do, we should find honey in greater demand, and get a better price for the article. One way to do better than we have done in this direction, is to have a rich well-ripened honey. Bee-keepers generally are not doing this; in fact, a honey well-ripened and rich in flavor is becoming the exception, rather than the rule. In my line of business hundreds of samples of honey are brought under

my notice. After being looked at for color, the next thing I do is to turn the glass upside down, and the rapidity with which the air bubble (after allowing for its size) reaches the top again is a strong indication of its specific gravity. If the thickness is not there, you need not look for the rich honey flavor; and a well-ripened honey, be it even buckwheat, is really better than a thin clover, thistle or basswood honey.

But what is the result of placing so much inferior first-class honey on the market? The consumer does not find it so much superior to cheaper sweets, such as syrups, and he is lost as a consumer of honey. Now, this subject is worthy of our very serious consideration. I feel we are drifting in the direction of serious error; we must improve quality and allow quantity to regulate itself, or we shall be financial losers. Now, I think we may drift to an extreme, and our friend Pringle is doing so I incline to believe, when he finds clover, thistle and basswood honey not ripe enough to take off until the middle of August. If we take it away when mostly capped we should, I think, be satisfied; and I think our customers will be satisfied with such a departure.

In my article in last issue an error crept in in speaking of the ages of the young Holtermann's. It should have read about 5, 3 and 1, not 5, 4, 3 and 1.

Brantford, Ont.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

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FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### Management of Bees.

IN this article I shall endeavor to instruct the novice as plainly as I can, in the winter and spring management of his bees. There is no trouble in taking care of bees in the spring if they are well wintered.

Now is the time to commence preparations for wintering bees and providing for next year's honey flow, for one colony well wintered is worth half a dozen starved and unprotected ones. In the first place, after taking off the supers, all colonies should be examined to see if they have queens; for it is no use to attempt to winter a queenless colony. The next thing is to make sure that all have sufficient stores; and to accomplish this they should be put separately on the weighing scales, so as to avoid anything like guess-work. For outside wintering all colonies should have at least thirty pounds of honey, and no less; if it is not quite all used it will not be wasted, for it will keep. On the other hand, if you do not give them quite enough you will be sure to lose both honey and bees. For cellar wintering from twenty to twenty five pounds

will be sufficient, but give me outside wintering in preference. My experience with cellar and out-wintered bees for the last five years has convinced me that a colony well packed outside is worth almost two cellar-wintered colonies, and that they give less bother and worry. It is a great drawback to the bee-keeper to keep constant watch over cellared bees for six months or more in order to see that they do not get either too much heat or cold. Well packed outside, and with sufficient store provided for them, they will watch the thermometer themselves, and govern themselves accordingly; and the apiarist, if he so desires, can leave them for a few days without uneasiness.

As the bees are now supposed to be led up well and ready for packing, I presume the novice is anxious to know how to proceed with the packing of them. There are many methods of packing, all of them good, provided they are done right. Some winter their bees in a long clamp, all in a row, some singly, with one colony in each; but the latter method is too expensive, and gives too much work. I have tried nearly all the different modes, and rather prefer three or four hive clamps, the fours being the most convenient and the easiest to make. If you are going to make any new packing boxes, try the fours. In the first place, make the bottom, and have it large enough to stand four hives upon, back to back, one facing north and the other south, or in any other direction you please, leaving the hives one or two inches apart, and making the boxes large enough to hold five or six inches of packing all around between the hives and the outside case. Nail the sides to the bottom, and have them high enough to allow for one or two inches of leaves or chaff below the hives, and from six to eight inches above. When you get your outside case ready, put one or two inches of chaff in the bottom, set the hives in, then have a bridge put to the entrance from a hole in the outside case to allow the bees free exit and entry.

Now, take off the cover, raise up the quilt, and place some sticks across the frames to enable the bees to cross over the combs; then put the quilt back over the sticks, leave the cover off, and pack all around and between the hives as tightly as possible, and the same on top. Then put on a good tight cover, so that the packing will be kept perfectly dry, and I am quite sure that, if you only feed and pack up your bees well, you will be delighted, upon advent of the honey flow of 1893, to see the bees rolling in the golden stores

D. ANGUISH.

Southwold, Ont.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

#### After-Dinner Thoughts.

ALTHOUGH I have just eaten very heartily of green peas, I will endeavor to give you a few stray thoughts, such as they are. I think we have had a good honey season here this year—that is, a good season for those who keep bees in good shape. Those who don't know how to keep bees, of course don't know the difference between a good and a bad season; and it's a great pity for them, too. I have told them many times that the whole secret of success in bee-keeping lies in keeping all their colonies very strong in numbers at all times, so that they may be able to gather honey rapidly when it is abundant in the fields. A weak colony will barely live where a strong one will rapidly increase its stores. I cannot understand the way some people proceed with their work, who seem to study it quite as thoughtfully as those who are more successful. Somehow they don't direct their thoughts straight, but seem to shoot wide of the mark, and would rather take advice of some one who has run out of subjects to write about, and who, for want of better information, tell bee-keepers to raise bees at certain seasons and for certain crops, and then unraise them when the particular crop of either is over. They are a sort of how-do-you-do people who tell you that—people who stop a threshing machine at every bundle, and who either know better or are "out of kilter." Bees must be raised steadily for twelve months, and raised as much as possible at that; and as many should be kept in each hive as possible, if you are working for honey. If you are keeping bees "for fun," then keep them in as many funny ways and shapes as you like; but don't try to mislead people who are endeavoring to make an honest living by raising honey. Thinking is a good thing, providing your machine is in order, and the oogs don't slip; but who by it can add one cubit to his stature, or change the natural conditions in the article of bee-keeping. You may employ any system you please; but you will have to come back to the simple, open fact that it takes a good system of bees, at least half a bushel of them in each hive, to gather honey in paying quantity. You may have as many plans and theories—as much head-on and what-not as you please; but you will have to remember that a person must have a real head on his shoulders if he makes bee-keeping a success. I have lost hundreds of dollars in years past by taking the advice of those whose natural faculties were not sustained by their common sense; but since using the home-made article, such as it is, I

have not only had success, but don't stand with mouth gaping to swallow all the lies that some greased hypocrite sees fit to inflict upon us in reference to their great knowledge of what the honey season will be in certain localities—even coming down so fine as to predict honey flows for certain counties. Our present gay deluder of this class, I think, lives south somewhere, his present victim being the A.B.J. (poor thing!)

But as my dinner is getting settled, and it is a busy time of the year, I must hasten to close these few thoughts, with strong and well defined admonitions to my brethren not to work their bees to death in the fall at getting poor honey to sell at a poor price, to make a poor market, and to leave poor and scanty stores for winter. How can you expect poor old worked-to-death bees to winter on such poor stores and come out in spring—if alive at all—in any other condition than poor enough to make you poor, and compel you to send in a poor report, and charge your poor prospects to a poor season—you poor fellow! when it was only your poor management that brought about such poor results? Why didn't you allow forty or fifty pounds of honey per colony, leaving a case of sealed honey in every colony besides the hive full, so that your bees are quiet and not worn out trying to scrape up stores for winter after you have robbed them? The season may be a good scapegoat, but that goat will never fetch you bread and butter.

Yours &c.,

JOHN F. GATES.

Ovid, Erie Co., Pa.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### Preservation of Combs for Future Use.

**S**IR,—Some time ago I promised to send you a description of my method of preserving surplus combs for future use; and as the season is now fast approaching for renewal of the supers containing combs for future use, and although hard pressed by other duties, I snatch a moment to do this; and if it only benefits a solitary bee-keeper, I will count myself well repaid.

After extracting all the combs I intend carrying over, I return them to the supers, and set them on a bench made of plank, about ten inches high, and situated about one hundred feet from the yard, spacing the frames about an inch apart, or in other words, putting five combs into an eight-frame super, or empty hive. I then pile them up four tiers high, without cloth or cover except the top tier, leaving an entrance at or near the bottom of the first hive, so that on fine days the bees can get in and clean up any honey that may still be adhering to the combs.

In this way I have no trouble from moths. The only trouble I experienced this season was that a chipmunk made its home in one house and a field-mouse hers in another. The damage, however, was light in comparison with the ravages of the bee moth, where the combs are not properly kept.

Owing to the failure of the honey crop this season, I have still on hand some of last year's combs which are perfectly clean and sound.

HO! FOR THE COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION! AND HURRAH!  
FOR OUR WORTHY COMMISSIONER.

As a bee-keeper, I heartily endorse the sentiments of Mr. McKnight in the C.B.J. of the 1st ult. Very truly the bee-keepers of this Province ought not to lag in their duty in presence of all that their representatives at Toronto have done for them. But I fear that what he says of this year's crop is only too true. As for the honey crop here I may say it is a total failure. Where I took over three thousand pounds last year, I only get four hundred this year, and that of very inferior quality compared with that of 1891. Then, what are we to do? Surely, not send an inferior article; whilst to send none would, under the circumstances, be still worse. Let me suggest, then, that some competent judge of honey be appointed by the Executive of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association—that all those who desire to exhibit at Chicago, and are in any way doubtful of the quality of their honey, send samples to the judge, and be guided by his advice. From what I have seen of Mr. McEvoy, our foul-brood inspector, at London, with some samples which he was called on to test, I think he would be the right man in the right place; and this could be done without any great expense, as it would only cost two cents to send a sample by mail.

I have not the least doubt that Ontario can and will make one of the best exhibits of honey at Chicago, of any country in the world, provided we give "a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether." And without this the whole affair will be a failure.

Yours, &c.,

W. J. BROWN.

Chard, Ont., Aug. 12th, 1892.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### Report 1891-2



My engagements in bee-keeping at Kalmar, an isolated station on the main line of the C. P. R., some ten miles from the Manitoba boundary, and 109 miles east of Winnipeg, have been merely experimental.



As bees were never known to have been kept in this locality, early last year I determined to test the nectar producing qualities of its wild and only flora. I had a good strong colony of Hybrid Italians sent me from one of the large apiaries in Middlesex Co., arriving here, May 10th, in good condition, after a journey by rail of four days.

Liberating them at noon the same day, four hours elapsed before I noticed any pollen-laden bees returning. Honey came in sparingly, but sufficient to encourage brood-rearing. At no time did there appear to be a good flow, except when the raspberry was in bloom, which encouraged them to enter the surplus apartment, a crate of one pound sections with starters. This they partially completed before swarming, which occurred about the middle of July. The swarm was given a hive containing eight L frames with starters. Examining them occasionally I found them making but poor headway, and at the close of the season I found the swarm queenless, and frames about three parts filled with comb and honey; but several of the combs had been used by the queen, while two contained hatching brood. I immediately made arrangements to unite them, which, when done, I was obliged to feed back all the honey the frames of the united colony contained, also all in the surplus crate with the exception of five of the best finished sections which I retained as samples. This was my total surplus. I found it of good quality, not unlike raspberry, though a trifle stronger; probably flavored by some of the aromatic herbs found here, but I think raspberry predominated. Although after uniting, their numbers were still below that of an average colony going into winter quarters. However, I determined to make them as comfortable as possible for the long cold winter.

A good cellar not being available, I constructed a box of rough lumber, eight inches larger than the outside dimensions of the hive, allowing also six inches under the hive and ten inches on top, with a channel 2 x 10 inches on one end for the entrance. After placing the hive in position within it, I removed the cover, placed a sort of Hill device over the frames, covering all with a stout piece of coarse sacking, and proceeded to fill all spaces with coarse pine saw-dust, thoroughly dry. As the frost at times is intense, frequently 40 to 50 degrees below zero, I took this precaution of packing with material perfectly dry; besides this, later on, I banked well with snow. Their last flight of the season was taken October 28th; they were then confined until the 5th of March, when they had a cleansing flight.

The weather continued sufficiently mild to admit of them flying out at mid-day for almost a week; cold set in again until the 24th, then we had a few more spring days when they flew out briskly. The subsequent weather proved cold and chilly far into the spring, which was very backward, and their first pollen was not gathered until the 11th of May. The prolonged cold weather caused them to dwindle so badly that by the 25th of June only a small handful with the queen remained. The hive was perfectly sweet and clean and contained an ample supply of stores. To-day I have two empty hives "for sale" cheap.

One of the causes of their decreasing so in numbers both last season and this spring, especially last season, I ascribe to bee enemies, principally the king-bird, which is uncommonly plentiful here.

The principal honey-producing flora are, a swamp willow, blueberry, raspberry, dwarf varieties of goldenrod and great willow herb. There are also numbers of other wild flowers, but I cannot speak of their nectar secreting habits. None of the above mentioned are, to say, abundant at present, but appear to improve with the years. As this part, during the construction of the C.P.R., was devastated by fire, north, south, east and west is one vast barren waste of bare rocks, with numerous small lakes and muskegs intervening, an occasional clump or ridge of spruce, pine, tamarac, etc., and young shrubby which has grown up since the fire in those places where the vegetable mould escaped being wholly consumed.

The nearest point I have any knowledge of at which bees are kept, is Rat Portage, 23 miles eastward (a country similar to this, but not so barren), where one individual only reports the successful wintering of his one colony, securing two good swarms and a quantity of honey. The nearest point along the line of the railway to the west at which bees are kept at a profit is, I understand, in the vicinity of Winnipeg, where it is prairie with a boundless area of wild flowers.

In 1882, when on a farm in Middlesex county, I purchased my first colony, and by the fall of 1889 I had built up an apiary of one hundred colonies.

Three poor seasons in succession somewhat discouraged me, and led to my coming west to engage in my present employment, intending, if possible, to combine it with beekeeping. The busy bee is still interesting to me, hence my experiments and persistent perusal of bee literature; the C.B.J. not excepted.

However, with this I enclose my renewal to C.B.J. until April 1st, 1893, awaiting future changes, when I may be able to give the busy bee at least a portion of my leisure hours in a more favorable locality, and continue, as I have been in the past, of the C.B.J.

Kalmar, Ont.

A READER.

Your report is a very interesting one, inasmuch as it deals with the subject from a section of country which thus far is almost wholly unknown to beekeepers as far as practical experiments go. We are convinced from what you say that the locality is an exceedingly poor one for bees, yet we are inclined to believe that a small expenditure in the way of Bokhara, clover seed and other honey plants would make it a good locality for bees. The crevices about rocky land are just the places that Bokhara thrives, and *Viprus bueglos* is a plant that cattle will not pasture on, so that it may be sown in pasture land. It will continue to seed itself, and after the second year you may always rely upon a good yield, if your colonies are strong, from some of the various flowers. We shall be glad to hear from you further in reference to any points you can give us, and we hope some of our bee-keeping friends in favored localities will secure you a little catnip, motherwort, and any other seed they may be able to collect, and forward to you, that you may be able to make it more inviting for your bees when you try it again.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

#### Wintering Bees.

WILL you kindly answer the following questions and oblige:—What is the lowest temperature bees can stand? It is often 40° below zero here in the Northwest Territories. I thought of wintering mine in an outhouse covered in about three feet of chaff, only allowing a small channel for ventilation at the entrance, and one at the top. Or do you think they would winter better out in a little ravine facing the south, if a good wall were built to protect them from the north wind, and they were placed in a double-walled hive well packed with chaff?

I am the first to start bee-keeping in this neighborhood. If successful, a number of others will try their hands also.

Very truly yours,

Elmore, N.W.T.

L. ORMOND.

Bees will always do better in a ravine where the severe wind cannot affect them so much. They will build up faster in the spring if so provided for in the winter, and they may be protected from the hot rays of the sun during the heated term in summer. Your system of packing, three feet in chaff, is a good one, and if you place them where the snow will drift over them, covering them up entirely (it matters not if it is ten or twenty feet deep), they will come through all right if they are properly prepared before going into winter quarters. I believe that bees will winter just as well where the temperature ranges from 25° to 50° below zero as they will in Ontario, because the atmosphere is dryer; and it is moisture and not cold that affects the bees most severely. If the moisture can be got rid of we are firm in our conviction that no amount of cold will kill the bees. We have reports where the bees have wintered splendidly when the temperature has gone below 50°. We will be pleased to hear from you occasionally, as there are now so many settling in the Northwest; and many are moving out to that section of the country who could take bees with them, if they knew they would be successful.

#### Stung to Death By Bees.

THE domestic honey bee is, as a rule, looked upon as a shining example of an industrious worker, and it does not often get into mischief if unmolested. An extraordinary incident, however, occurred at Chilliwack, B.C., on Friday, Aug. 12th, which proves that the bee can sometimes create trouble on its own account.

Mr. Geo. Belrose, on the day named, tied a team of horses to a fence in Chilliwack, at some little distance from Mr. W. Smith's large apiary, where there are 150 hives of bees. All at once a cloud of bees swooped down on the horses, literally covering them, and commenced plying their stings with terrible effect. The animals were soon wild with pain, and men, covered with veils, were obliged to go to the rescue, and succeeded in cutting the frantic horses loose. Afterwards buckets of water were dashed over them to free them from their tormentors. The horses were so badly stung that one of them died the same evening, and it is feared the other horse will also succumb to the fearful stinging it received. What irritated the bees and caused them to make their furious onset on the horses is a mystery.

OF THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

## THE APIARY.

### TO BEGINNERS IN BEEKEEPING.

**Elementary Principles Without Which All Efforts Result in Failure.**

**B**EE KEEPERS may be divided into three classes, the specialists who keep bees on a large scale and make a business of producing honey, small beekeepers who have a few hives as a supplement to some other occupation, or as one of many branches of farming, and amateurs, who find in beekeeping a scientific recreation. Beekeeping specialists cherish no great admiration or love for small farmers who keep a few bees, and they regard the amateurs with a feeling bordering on contempt. For my own part, while by no means advocating a general rush into beekeeping, I have for more than a quarter of a century, championed the cause of the small farmer and amateurs. I believe that bees are, properly speaking, part of the live stock of the farm. They are needed as fertilizing agents on every square acre of arable land, to distribute the fructifying pollen required by the clovers and the fruit. I am not sure but they perform a similar office for the grains and grasses, and they are indispensable in the floral world. On the farm they give no annoyance to neighbors, are more free from disease, and help to vary the monotony of country life. They supply a tempting dish for the family table, and, well managed, are a source of profit.

Some practical instruction to beginners is what I have been asked to give in this paper, and I have before me a mass of questions asking how one should begin in keeping bees, how procure them, at what season, what kind, what are the things absolutely necessary, and the probable cost of bees, hives, etc. These queries will be answered briefly in this article, though, in so doing, I must barely touch on some things that will afterward require fuller elucidation.

How to begin? That depends on whether you design to make a business of beekeeping, or only to keep them on a limited scale. One who wishes to go into beekeeping somewhat largely should serve an apprenticeship, and take a thorough course of instruction. Beekeeping, as a business, like every other, needs a preparatory education. This may be obtained either by spending a season or two with a good practical beekeeper who has a large apiary, or by taking a course at some institution where the science and art of beekeeping are taught. Most specialists are prepared to take learners, and initiate them into the mysteries of beekeep-

ing. The Michigan and Rhode Island agricultural colleges are, I think, the only public institutions in the United States where a course in scientific and practical beekeeping can be had. Professor Cook, of Michigan, is one of the most accomplished entomologists and beekeepers in the world. My own little college is the only institution of the kind in Canada. There are few who are able to begin thus thoroughly. Most intending beekeepers must be self taught and pick up the knowledge in the hard and costly school of experience. Such should begin in a moderate way and make haste slowly. The first thing to do is to get a manual of bee-keeping, and study it thoroughly. There are several such manuals. One of the best, if not the very best, is Prof. Cook's "Guide to the Apiary," which may be had for \$1.

How to procure bees? Buy a single hive, not more at the start. Order it from some good, reputable, practical bee-keeper, who will furnish a thrifty, healthy stock.

At what season? Early spring, as a beginner cannot be expected to know the art of wintering successfully.

What kind? Italians, by all means. They are gentle, easy to handle, and, probably, all things considered, the best honey-gatherers we have.

Things absolutely necessary are one or two extra hives for increase, a bee-smoker, veil and gloves for protection, or to inspire confidence, two or three supers containing sections for comb honey, and a small supply of artificial comb foundation. The probable cost is as follows: Stock of bees, \$6; spare hives, about \$1 each; bee-smoker from 65 cents to \$1, or for the very best \$2; veil 50 cents; bee gloves 50 cents, if you are satisfied with a sheepskin gauntlet used by farmers for handling thisty grain. They have a thumb and forefinger, and if made of soft-tanned sheepskin are very pliable. Their smooth surface makes them non-irritants to the bees. Avoid rubber gloves. They sweat the hands, and soon rot from the action of honey. Supers for honey sections cost from 65 to 75 cents each, with sections and starters, and I would advise beginners to get them ready for use.

The probability of success depends on the novice. Patience, vigilance, attention to detail, perseverance and entire self-command are among the chief essentials. These may be referred to more in detail hereafter.

In the list of things absolutely necessary to begin with, I have purposely omitted requisites for extracting honey, such as extractor, honey

knife and receptacles for extracted honey. These would greatly increase the cost of a beginning, which should be kept as low as possible until the novice finds out, by a season's trial, whether he or she is likely to prove a success at bee-keeping. Extracting honey requires much judgment and skill, and is rather a mussy job for a beginner. It disturbs the bees far more than working for comb honey, and should be deferred until some experience has been gained. It will perhaps be said that raising comb honey is the highest style of bee-keeping, and that it undoubtedly is, in its nicer details; but putting on a super of sections is a simple operation, and there is nothing more encouraging to a beginner than the sight of a super full of virgin honey in the comb.

I would strongly advise a novice to adopt what is known as the Langstroth hive, and after adopting it to stick to it, at least until considerable experience is gained. Having different kinds of hives is above all things to be avoided. The frames should fit all the hives in an apiary, so as to be readily interchangeable. The Langstroth hive comes the nearest to being a standard hive all over the American continent, and has many advantages on that account. The beginner should avoid novelties and take care not to be seized with a fever of hive invention. I have known some novices, who, before their first season was half through, invented a hive to their sorrow, cost and confusion. Apprentices are seldom successful inventors, and it is old navigators not cabin boys who make valuable discoveries.

PROF. WILLIAM F. CLARKE,  
Ontario Bee-keepers' College.

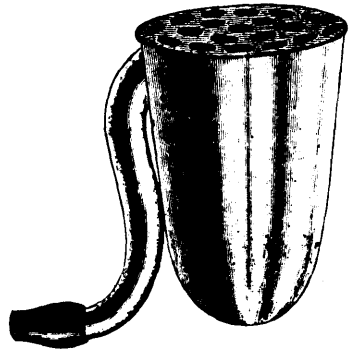
FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

#### L. L. Langstroth's Experience With The London Ear-Trumpet.

**P**ERHAPS very few of my readers realize how much more comfortable it is to be old in these days than it was some two or three hundred years ago. Before the invention of spectacles, how often a man, still in the very prime of life, must have found himself no longer fit for nice work, through the failing of his eyesight! Now we have spectacles for the relief of such inability, and also for seeing objects at a distance, such, for instance, as the pebbles on the roadside, or the cherries on the trees, almost if not quite as well as the young. It is true, that defective teeth were not so common in the olden times as they now are, but still we know that they were so common that specimens of how this infirmity was remedied have been found in old skeletons, almost as per-

fect as the modern invention. But what can be done to relieve those who are hard of hearing? Few can be persuaded to use the huge old-fashioned ear-trumpet or the long rubber tube; and yet when one becomes so hard of hearing as not to hear the preacher or the orator, or even the ordinary conversation of the social circle, it does not take long to realize what a great misfortune has befallen him. Such an unfortunate soon perceives that the world is too busy to try to make a deaf man hear, and gradually ceases to attempt to hear any spoken words except such as are directed to himself personally. Slowly but surely he drops out of social intercourse with his fellow-men, and life has lost a very large part of its charms.

About two months ago a friend who is very hard of hearing told me how he remedied it by pressing the thin surface of a patented invention against his teeth; but as I had none but artificial teeth it was of no use to me. He then gave me a little ear-trumpet, known as the London trumpet or oraphone. I was so delighted with it that I took it to bed, the first night, to have the pleasure of hearing the clock tick when I awoke. Speaking of it to different friends, I found that there was a demand for it; but while it helped many, others seemed to get no important relief from its use. Finding that by helping poor deaf humanity, I can at the same time help myself, I am prepared to sell these trumpets at the usual retail price, \$4.50, to any of your readers who are hard of hearing or have friends or acquaintances who may be so unfortunate. Your advertising columns will show how to get from me such an instrument for trial.



ORAPHONE, OR LONDON EAR-TRUMPET.

This cut represents its appearance; three and a half inches long, and two and one-eighth inches in diameter, is the size usually preferred. On receipt, by mail, of a money order or check for \$4.50, I will mail one prepaid to any address. It may be kept on trial for two weeks; and if

not found serviceable, it may then be remailed to me in the original package (postage only five cents), and the check or money order sent me will be returned.

L. L. LANGSTROTH.

120, Ford St., Dayton, O.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Question Drawer.

**G**ENTLEMEN,—I have a colony of bees in a Root chaff hive which has not swarmed this season. Early in the spring I discovered they were queenless. Being advised to do so, I introduced brood frames full of brood and queen cells from other hives. Those I have now are nearly half full of drones; indeed, upon inspection, there is no brood, except drone brood here and there. Can you advise me what to do? I was thinking of driving them all out, and putting a screen on the front of the hive, so as to exclude the queen, if any, as well as the drones, and then introducing another queen. How would that do? and when would be the proper time to do it? Unfortunately I am but a novice at the work yet.

Hoping to hear from you, I remain yours truly,

ALEX. SPRINGSTEAD.

Stoney Creek, Aug. 8, '92.

It is easy to observe, my dear sir, as you say there is no worker brood in your hives, that you have at all events got fertile workers. As you are a new beginner, however, perhaps you do not know what the term "fertile workers" means. It means simply this, then: that your colony has been queenless for some time, and the bees have no means of rearing a queen, whereupon the worker bees, which are just undeveloped female bees, have commenced laying eggs, which is quite a common thing for them to do, some races of bees being more disposed in that direction than others. You will notice, if you look at the way the larvae is capped over, that instead of presenting an even or flat surface, as worker brood is, they are all capped conically instead, giving the comb the appearance, where the brood is capped, of little ant-hills. Then again if you look at the eggs as they are laid in the cells, you will observe that they are not laid on the bottom of the cell with the uniformity which is peculiar to those laid by the queen.

The body of the queen being much more elongated than that of the worker bee, reaches down to the bottom of the cell. As there is also a longer curve to the back of the queen, whilst the abdomen is straighter, the intrusion of her body into the cell enables her to deposit the egg about one-third from the centre of the septum toward the edge. An expert can thus tell which way the queen is travelling without even seeing her. Now, on the other hand, a worker bee's body is not so long; consequently, where the cells are of full depth, they are liable to stick their bodies down and drop the eggs; and it is not an uncommon thing to see from two eggs to a dozen in one cell. Some of these eggs will appear very small, so small that after being deposited for a few days they can hardly be seen, and, if not properly cared for, many of them don't hatch one. They have also a habit of leaving their eggs sticking to the sides of the cell, instead of in the uniform manner in which the queen lays them, as I stated before. Sometimes, in experimenting with old female workers, we have known them to become so perfect in their work as to make it difficult, without examining the eggs in the cell, to detect their eggs from those of the queen.

It is quite probable that you have few worker bees, and that those you have are old and will soon die off. In that case it would be more profitable to remove the combs and extract the honey. The drones would then soon starve, or you might take any means for their speedy destruction. After leaving the bees without combs for a few days, they might be united with a weak colony; but unless there is honey in the flowers in your neighborhood they would probably consume more than they would gather before they die. We consider the old worker bees of the colony as of very little value at this season of the year. The capped brood should have their heads shaved off; and when you have extracted the honey and cleaned the extractor, you should then put in the combs and extract the brood, after which they might be placed in another colony, or, you might, if you prefer it, amalgamate them with a strong colony and allow the bees to clean out the dead larvae.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

### Why Clergymen Should Keep Bees.

**T**HIS is a subject which has not been touched on in the BEE JOURNAL for some time, and so a few lines upon it may not be out of place. It may reach some of my brethren in the ministry who have not thought of the matter before, and induce them to join our ranks and begin the study of the honey bee, which they will find one of the most interesting that can engage their attention. A large number of the most advanced and intelligent bee-keepers belong to this class, and they have done much to make this industry what it now is. In proof of this, I need only refer to the case of the Rev. L. Langstroth, who, by his inventions, writings and addresses, has well earned the title of "The Father of American Bee-Keeping." We do look up to him, and reverence and respect him as a father, and sympathize with him deeply in the keen sufferings, the "much tribulation" through which he is called upon to pass. Others of the clerical profession, though not so noted as Mr. Langstroth, have added their quota to the general fund of information and experience. Still the number of clergymen who keep bees is comparatively small. Now, there are quite a number of reasons why they should keep bees. 1. For recreation and exercise. No class of men need this more. In fact they must have it if they are to make the most of themselves and do their work in the best possible way. Now, the occupation of bee-keeping furnishes them, during a portion of the year, with the recreation and exercise they require. They cannot help becoming intensely interested in it as their knowledge increases, and they go on making experiments and performing the manipulations necessary for successful bee-keeping. In this way their minds are drawn away from their studies and their worries, and are rested and refreshed. Whilst thus occupied in the open air they obtain exercise for their bodies, and inhale an abundant supply of oxygen which causes the blood to course through their veins with greater ease, and imparts fresh warmth and vitality to the entire system; so that when they return to their studies they are prepared mentally and physically for doing efficient work.

2. For the addition to their incomes of what it furnishes. As a class, clergymen are underpaid, considering the time and money spent in preparation for the work, the position they must occupy in society, and the innumerable calls made upon them for Christian and benevolent objects. The result is that very many have great difficulty in making ends meet. If they have families to educate it is, only by exercising self

denial and observing the strictest economy that they can do it. In these circumstances the profits of a little apiary form a most helpful appendage, and secure many little extras which add very materially to the comforts of the home. I have heard of more than one clergyman who made enough from his bees to educate his children, some of his sons being now in the ministry.

3. For the means which it furnishes of ministering to the sick. Whilst imparting to them spiritual consolation, he can at the same time tempt their impaired bodily appetites by giving them a little honey done up in an attractive way, and by a slight attention of this kind he may strengthen the tie and increase the affection subsisting between his people and him.

4. For the counsel he may be able to give and the assistance he may render to those of his parishioners and neighbors who may keep bees. Among the students found in D. A. Jones's apiary a few years ago was a Roman Catholic priest from Muskoka, who came there to learn the art of bee-keeping, that he might instruct his people and put them in the way of adding materially to their scanty livelihoods. He realized that though most of that region was unfitted for profitable cultivation, there was an abundant supply of flora that was going to waste, and that if he could induce the poor people who had settled there to go into bee keeping, it might very much improve their worldly circumstances. Some of the largest yields of honey we have heard of have been in Muskoka. Now, few clergymen may be situated as this priest was and be able to turn the knowledge acquired to such account for the benefit of those under their charge. Yet all have many opportunities of being helpful to others in this respect, and it affords one a great deal of pleasure to do this. He may occasionally lose a little time and be subjected to a little interruption; but the happiness derived from being the means of rendering assistance to others compensates him for it all. One never loses anything by being always ready to help others. In fact this is one of the great aims of life—"not to look on our own things, but the things also of others."

J. CARSWELL.

Bond Head, Sept. 1st, 1892.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### Information Wanted.

**D**EAR SIR:— I am about entering into the business of bee-keeping for the third time, and hope it will not be considered presumptuous on my part to ask you for some information. My past experience has been with

common black bees, commencing each time with one colony and in a few years increasing to about thirty colonies, all of which I lost each time in wintering. I understand that you have been successful for a series of years in the matter of wintering, and that you have experimented with the Cyprian bees. I should therefore be pleased to get your opinion of the Cyprians as compared with Italians and common bees respectively, and at what price you can furnish Cyprian queens and full colonies. I would also like a full description of the hive you consider best adapted for the business, as well as the method of wintering which you have found most successful. My previous occupation has been farming, the cares of which prevented me giving full attention to bees; but as my son has now taken full charge of that work, I have decided to try bees again, and shall this time give them all necessary attention so far as my knowledge will enable me to do so. I find some apiarists recommend Italians, others and among them Mr. M<sup>r</sup>. Richardson near here, dealer in bee supplies, denounce all except the common black bee. However I do not wish to be influenced by any one's prejudice, animosity or superstition. I have started again with black bees which I have Italianized, and they are doing well. I know of no one but yourself who has had experience with Cyprians, and therefore would like to learn how they have done for you, to determine whether it would be advisable to give them a trial.

I am told that you have reported 125 lbs. as an average yield per colony. Is this correct? If so, is it an average for a single season, or for a number of years? Awaiting your reply,

Yours, etc,

O. F. KNISELEY.

Humberstone, August 8th 1892.

The Cyprian bees are not suitable for this country. They have been discarded, we believe, wherever tried. They are much crosser than the Italians or blacks. We have none for sale, and think you had better stick to your Italians and black bees, or their crosses. We prefer Italians to blacks; but you should get fair results from either, as there are very few pure blacks in this country. Most of them are hybridized by the Italians, as they are so plentiful now. It is a mistake to fancy that some bees are going to make you rich just because they are a new race, or a different variety. Wealth is much more likely to come from a thorough knowledge of apiculture than from any race of bees or particular

kind of hive. We prefer the combination hive for all comb and extracted honey; but for extracted honey alone we are not convinced that there is any better hive than the old Jones hive when used two or three storeys. You will likely succeed best by packing your bees out doors in just dry saw-dust, clover chaff, or some other good absorbent.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

A Season's work with the Bees.

**Y**OU ask me to send you a report of my season's work with my bees, which I will try to do.

I must say that I began the season pretty well down in the mouth. I put sixteen swarms into winter quarters last fall, and only five were to the fore this spring, and one of them a mere handful which I had to assist from one which was good and strong. It however pulled through, and is a powerful swarm now, and has given me a surplus of about 60 lbs of extracted honey. It never swarmed however.

The one out of whose stores I helped it swarmed on May 28th, and from it I have taken one hundred and forty pound sections, and there is quite a number full and part full on it now. From the swarm that came from it, I have taken one hundred and twelve pounds of extracted honey, which is a good record for one swarm; the rest have done very well. I have increased from the five mentioned to nine. I put back all the seconds, and have taken in all, extracted and comb honey, six hundred and twenty pounds, which I think is very good. My swarms are all in fine condition.

The honey this season is exceptionally fine. The white clover was the best I ever saw. I think the basswood this year did not turn out as well as I thought it might, for the bloom was splendid. Very little honey has been gathered during the last week here.

Yours, etc,

JAMES ELLIOTT.

Wilton Grove, August, 1892.

### Market Reports.

CHICAGO.

**S**T. FISH & Co. quote as follows:—We have enquiries for white 1 lb sections comb honey, and quote markets, 16 cts. for best grades; amber selling at 14 cts.; good demand for extracted, at 7 and 8 cts. Beeswax, 26 cts.

TORONTO.

Comb honey is in good demand, and selling fast at 15 cts. Extracted secures a big demand at 8 cts. Beeswax dull, selling at 30 cts.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

In Favor of a Good Exhibit at the World's Fair.

DEAR SIR, I quite agree with Mr. Corneil in your last issue of August 15th, that it is important that a good exhibit be made at the opening of the World's Fair, and I cannot see much difficulty if the different exhibitors will set aside from this year's crop the quantities required by the entries. The small quantities which each exhibitor is allowed to send gives almost every bee-keeper a chance to be represented,

It is not expected that every one can send all the varieties mentioned in the list; but there are few who cannot send one or two good samples. When we consider that the bee-keeper is at no expense whatever for carriage or caretaking, it is a very liberal offer.

To make a proper exhibit of extracted honey, part of it should be liquid and part granulated; and, to keep the liquid part in an attractive condition, it should be renewed or liquified from time to time. If there are any bees shown they will require attention.

In my answer to Mr. Awrey's first letter, I pointed out to him that if he could assure intending exhibitors that a practical man would be engaged to set up and care for the honey exhibit, it would be a great inducement to many who would not otherwise send exhibits to be set up by some person probably not informed upon the nature of honey. In his reply he has promised to provide a man to take care of the exhibit while in Chicago.

Yours, etc.,

R. H. SMITH.

Bracebridge, Aug. 22nd, 1892.

#### Report of Bee-Keepers.

MR. SAMUEL H. BOLTON, of Deweyville, Ohio, writes us:—"We have had a good honey flow, but it is nearly all over, except the buckwheat. Hives are all full and I have extracted this year some of the best honey I have ever had."

MR. JAMES ELLIOTT, of Wilton Grove, writes us:—"I am pleased to say the JOURNAL has been of much value to me, and I would not like to be without it. I send you a list herewith of parties interested in bees; do not know whether they will become subscribers or not, but feel certain they would profit by doing so."

MR. JOHN CAMERON, of Cherry Creek, writes us:—"Your JOURNAL is well worth paying for. I like it splendidly. Bees in this locality during the past winter did not do very well, a great

many having died. We had ten, fall count, and seven, spring count. They are doing much better this summer. We ship our surplus honey to Manitoba. I wish you every success."

MR. GEORGE BROWN, of Livingston, Oregon, writes us as follows:—"This is no place for bees; we have no rain or any dew fall, and it gives them all they can do to gather a sufficient stock of honey for their own use. It seems impossible even to raise bees here. We have tried them, but with scant success."

MR. R. J. TAYLOR, of Brantford, sends us the following report:—"I started in the spring with eight hives, which have increased to fourteen, and have secured 700 pounds of extracted honey."

MR. CARL KEIM, of Buffalo, writes us:—"It is rather early in the season to say anything definite. I may however say the honey crop is excellent from white clover. Bees are in good shape. Will give a fuller report later on."

F. G. ABBOTT writes us:—"In the fall of '91 I put away twenty-four hives in my beehouse, and twenty-two came out in good shape in the spring. It was a very hard and trying spring on bees, from cold and wet weather. They gathered scarcely enough honey to keep them till the middle of June, when the weather got fine, and they succeeded in gathering a quantity of clover honey which far exceeded my expectation. The basswood yield was very good. I extracted 2600 lbs, and increased fifteen swarms."

MR. A. MURPHY, of Bluevale, writes us:—"My bees have done fairly well this season. Last season was a very poor one with me; my bees hardly kept themselves in honey, and a very heavy loss was the result. Some bee-keepers in this neighborhood lost all; others had a few colonies left. I started with four colonies last spring, have now eleven, and have taken two hundred and eighty lbs of honey from them. I have read the BEE JOURNAL for some time and am greatly pleased with its contents. I think it is improving very rapidly."

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

#### Chaff Hives.

KINDLY answer the following questions:—  
I am making chaff hives; does it matter whether the frames run crossways or lengthways? Kindly give me your opinion which is the best; also how to double up at this



season of the year. Some of my colonies are weak.

Please answer through the C.B.J., and oblige,

AARON GUMMERSON.

Cooksville, Aug. 11, 1892.

Opinions are about equally divided between running the frames crosswise and lengthwise of the hive. We always prefer them crosswise, after experimenting some time. But as far as the quantity of honey is concerned, we do not think it matters which way they run. But if you are extracting from the body of the hive, the frames at the back are usually filled with honey, while the ones in the centre and front are filled with brood. This enables you to extract from the filled frames without interfering with the brood. Where you have only one apiary, it is more difficult to double up successfully. When we had several apiaries we just took the colonies that we wished to double, carried them to another apiary, and after smoking both colonies thoroughly, we would then shake the bees all up together, usually selecting the best combs from each colony and placing them in the hive. After removing all combs from both colonies, which is done very easily, take them into a building or tent and select the ones you require, placing them in the hive you intend the bees to occupy. Then, when both colonies are shook down in front and allowed to run in together, no fighting will occur. At this season of the year robbing is liable to be started by allowing combs to remain where bees can get a taste of the honey; but where you wish to double up in the same apiary it is necessary to select the colonies that you wish to unite; then commence moving them towards each other, say one or two feet the first day, and doubling the distance each day until they are drawn together. It has been stated that, by changing the surroundings of the hive, placing some bar or object in front of the entrance, the bees can be made to settle in a strange location. Such has not been our experience, however, and frequently many bees return to the old hive. Therefore we gradually get the hives that we wish to unite side by side, and proceed as above. We have sometimes removed the combs and kept them away from the colony over night, or

during the day, when there was no brood in the combs to perish. But when there is brood in the combs care must be taken not to allow it to chill, and they should not be kept without bees more than from half an hour to an hour, according to the temperature. In cool weather young larvæ chill very easily.

#### Wintering Bees.

**M**R. EDITOR.—I observe by the last BEE JOURNAL, that you have offered a prize for the best system of wintering bees. Having had about fifty years of experience with them, I have concluded to give it to the public.

Fifty years ago the old straw hive was considered the best for wintering in consequence of its porous character, and the facility thus offered for escape of moisture, and from the fact that the bees so constructed their combs that it gave them easy access to the honey in the very coldest weather. Although the bees clustered well in the centre of the hive, they always had to be covered to keep the wet out. Some put sheds over them; others cut the head off a wheat sheaf, or tied a band around close to the top, and open in the middle, to keep them dry. I don't think there is a safer or a better way to-day for wintering them than that was. Its only defect was that it offered no means for controlling or managing bees; and so it had to be given up.

My next plan was to build a house six by twelve, divided into four spaces for as many swarms. They were hived in the winter in the centre box, so that we could take off the end boxes with very nice honey. Those bees wintered well, were always strong; but because I could not manage them just as I wished, I had to give up the plan.

Next came the rack hive, invented by Mr. Langstroth. This was a wonderful improvement; it gave me complete control of my bees, and will never be dispensed with. But I soon found they would not stand the wintering, so I fixed a place in my driving-shed, made it perfectly dark, and put in ten hives for wintering. Two that were weak and required to be fed, I put up stairs in an unoccupied bed-room, made perfectly dark, and fed them every night through the winter with some sugar-syrup mixed with honey.

Those in the drive-house were all dead in the spring from moisture that had collected through the winter; those which I kept up stairs in the bed-room surpassed my previous expe-

rience; for I never had bees come out better than they did. For two or three years after that I wintered them in the same room, up stairs, and never lost a hive.

After that I had to move about fifteen miles away, and my bees increased to thirty-two that season, and I tried to winter them on their summer stands. I had to move them again about two miles in the spring. The 17th of March was a fine warm day, and I thought it a good time to move the bees. I got them well on to the sleigh, let them out, gave them a good cleaning fly, after which they returned to their hives all right. The weather turned very cold, however, on the 20th, the mercury dropped to ten below zero, and I lost all but one, which happened to occupy the only double-walled hive I had.

Now, for the next trial. Having one left, I bought three more that spring and increased to seven. That season I fixed a place to winter them in a cellar which I had at the cow stable, about ten feet square, and perfectly dark. Here I wintered them for several years with much success, but I found the mercury would go down too low in very cold weather.

About eight years ago I moved from Aurora to Clarksburg, where I now reside. The first winter here I had no place to put my bees, so I tried wintering them on their summer stands. I made boxes to put over each hive, filled in with sawdust. It was a mild winter, and they came out very well; but I had a few losses with some of my hives which were weak in bees. There was plenty of honey in parts of the hive: but owing to the fact that they were too weak to keep up the necessary heat in the hive they could not get at it.

The next summer I built myself a bee-house, 14x18, with fourteen inches of shavings packed in all around up to the doorway, with two feet of the same on top. I had it lathed and plastered inside, with ventilation above and below, giving space for about one hundred and twenty hives. When winter sets in I take the tops all off, and give all the ventilation I can at the entrance. In March I find them getting restless, I open the two doors at night, before going to bed, and shut them again in the morning, before day light. This keeps them tolerably quiet until the weather gets warm. I give them as long as I dare, for if they get too warm they will swarm out, making trouble and loss. I find the best time to set them out on their stands is in the evening, when they will not fly. The best plan is to set them out some fine day about the last of March or first of April. Let them have a good cleansing fly; and, as soon as the weather turns cold, put them back, and they will be quiet for a month or more. Under these circumstances the queens will lay very fast, and your bees will increase rapidly. Then give them until the soft maples are in bloom, or the willows or swamp-elms. These are the first trees to yield honey, in this part of the country, that will prevent spring decrease to any great extent.

These are my experiments, so far as I have yet tried; and I consider the last the easiest, the cheapest and the best.

Now, Mr. Editor, I will give you a recital of two more experiments of which, however, I was only a witness.—A neighbor of mine had

occasion to go to Kansas to spend the winter, leaving about twenty hives. He was anxious to have them winter well; and, in order to feel comfortable about them whilst away, he set to work and made a bin about thirty feet long, facing the east. On the front of this he put about 6 inches of sawdust, put some boards over it, and then placed his bees all in a row, close together. An entrance was made for them. He then filled it all around with about twelve inches of sawdust, and covered it with boards for a roof, to keep out the rain and snow. When he returned on the 1st April, the first thing to attend to was his bees; and, to his sorrow, they were nearly all dead; so nearly so, that on the 1st day of May he hadn't a live bee on his farm. I went to see them, and found them all over the hive, sticking to the combs here and there, and to the walls of the hive. They didn't appear to have clustered, as bees generally do in the winter. They had been kept too warm and had not air enough.

The next case was that of a man who got it into his head that wintering under ground would be a good plan. So he dug a trench about two feet deep, put down some cross pieces to rest boards upon; and, to keep them dry, he put the bees in when the winter set in and covered them with straw and dirt to the depth of about eight inches. In the spring, when he went to examine them, he found that mice had got in and destroyed them all.

Now, Mr. Editor, you and the public have my fifty years' experience in bee wintering; and with my compliments.

I am yours, etc.,

G. L. PEARSON.

Clarksburg, Aug. 2, 1892.

## ADVERTISING :: RATES !

All advertisements will be inserted at the following rates.

### STANDING ADVERTISEMENTS.

Time.	1 Inch.	2 In.	3 In.	4 In.	1 C. 1.	Page.
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3 months	4 00	5 50	7 00	9 00	15 00	25 00
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BEE TON ONT.

**EDITORIAL.**

Be sure and get your friends to subscribe for the C.B.J.

Bro. H. W. Wylie, the A.B.J. and "Gleanings" seems to have buried the hatchet.

Rev. W. F. Clark, of Guelph, is taking in the Detroit exposition. We presume he has a nice little exhibit on hand.

We are always pleased to duplicate lost copies of THE JOURNAL, provided the edition is not exhausted before receiving notice thereof.

The successful business man of to-day is the man who keeps his name before the public, who advertises judiciously, advertises what he has, and sells what he advertises. Try it.

Parties having honey for sale, or wishing to purchase the same would, be considering their own interests by inserting an advertisement in the columns of the C.B.J., as inquiries from dealers are beginning to come in.

It would take altogether too much time to reply to all the complimentary letters we receive, or to thank, individually, parties who have interested themselves in the welfare of the C.B.J. We trust they will accept this general expression of gratitude from us for their kindness.

We want an active agent in each

local bee-keeper's association in Canada and the United States to act for us in soliciting subscriptions for the C.B.J. We will pay them liberally, and will be pleased to receive the names of parties wishing to take an agency.

If you have not done so already, please send us the names of your neighbors who keep bees, or of any parties whom you know to be interested in them. Call and get their subscriptions for THE JOURNAL and secure some of the valuable premiums offered.

We feel grateful to those of our subscribers who, upon receipt of statement, have remitted the amount of their subscription to the C.B.J. There are a few, however, who have not as yet responded, and we trust they will be kind enough to favor us with an answer at their earliest.

If you wish to subscribe for any other Journal, bee book, or literature of any kind, write us for particulars. We can secure them direct for you on the shortest notice. We have just received from the publishers a large number of "Cook's Manual," which will be mailed upon receipt of price, which is \$1.00, and the postage.

Read our special offer, contained on another page, for essays on the best system of wintering bees. As the season is rapidly approaching when bees must be placed in winter quarters, we trust that our many readers, whose opinion on this subject we are desirous of eliciting, will favor us with them.

We would advise apiarists, when shipping honey to commission men, to ascertain the financial standing of their consignees, as some of our friends who have skipped consignments to parties in Toronto have failed to receive remittances therefor. Had inquiries been made before shipping, this loss would have been avoided.

The many friends of Mr. Ailen Pringle will be very sorry to hear of his severe illness. We are pleased to know, however, that he is recovering, and, though weak in body, his mind is sufficiently strong to give us a very

interesting article which will be found in another column of this JOURNAL. We hope soon to hear of his entire and speedy recovery.

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In conversation with friend Wm. Couse, the obliging secretary of the O.B.K.A., he informed us that the honey flow is not as good in Streetsville this season as might have been expected. We have very encouraging reports from some parts, and the reverse from others; but, like some of our American cousins, we are anxiously awaiting the "silver lining." It's sure to come.

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From what we can learn of the Tunisian bees, it would be a great mistake for any person to introduce them amongst our present valuable races. It is a pity, we think, that any have ever reached America; but we believe the better judgment of our bee-keepers will prevent them from being humbugged with any more. We would suggest to those who have them for sale, to place the price at \$300, and so do their customers a greater favor than they otherwise would by placing them at any less price.

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In a little over four months from the date of this issue, the O.B.K.A. will hold its annual meeting in the town of Walkerton. It is to be hoped that every member of the association will make it a point to be present. Our friends will have all arrangements completed for the comfort of the visitors, and full particulars will be supplied later on. These annual gatherings, where we all meet to exchange our thoughts, should be very profitable, none of us being too wise to learn. Much valuable information may be received at them, the opportunity for acquiring which should not be neglected.

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It has been decided that the North American Bee-keepers' Association will not meet in September at Washington, during the G.A.R. encampment, as the following letter from Secretary Hutchinson to friend York will explain:

FRIEND YORK:—I am now able to announce officially that the North American Bee-keepers'

Association will not meet during the G.A.R. encampment. As soon as it is definitely known when the societies meet in Washington, near the end of the year, Mr. Benton will let us know, and a date will be chosen.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

Flint, Mich., Aug. 6th, 1892.

o o o

Novices should be extremely careful in regard to extracting honey from their hives at this time of the year; it is far better to leave too much in them than too little. It is also bad policy to extract the honey and to feed with sugar; but it is good policy, on the other hand, to give them plenty of room by the addition of another storey. If you have not got a second storey, remove from one to three combs of those filled with honey and sealed, according to the strength of the colony, replacing them with empty combs, and so give the bees sufficient storage room. Removed combs should be kept in a dry place, where the bees could not get at them; they may be used, if needed, or the honey may be extracted at any time.

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On another page we present our readers with the experience of the Rev. L. L. Langstroth with his London ear trumpet. The price of this trumpet is only \$4.50; and father Langstroth makes the exceptional offer to mail it, charges prepaid, on receipt of price, after which it may be kept on trial for two weeks. At the expiration of that period if not found serviceable, and remailed, the money will be refunded. To any of our friends who are troubled with deafness we would recommend a trial of this trumpet. Knowing father Langstroth as we do, we are sure he would not recommend it were it not good, and had he not full confidence in it. His reputation is too well known the world over to require any comments as to his integrity.

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These are fine days for the sun wax extractors. The temperature, for several days past, has been raised from ninety to about one hundred or one hundred and twenty-five degrees in the sun, and in favored localities, there is no trouble in melting pieces of old comb, and in rendering wax very rapidly. It is a bad time to leave combs about which are intended for wax, as the moths are

liable to destroy them much more quickly in warm than in cool weather, unless they are protected. If you have not sufficient time to reduce your waste combs and pieces to wax at once, place them in the sun until they are sufficiently warm to be pressed together without melting; then place them in a box and crush them together with a piece of wood or by the pressure of the foot. A large quantity of comb can be thus pressed into very small compass, and, while in that condition, is not affected by moths. Every bee-keeper should have a sun wax extractor in his yard, as enough wax can be secured by means of it to doubly repay its cost.

One of the most regrettable accidents connected with newspaper and journal publication is the occasional tendency, either from oversight, preoccupation or carelessness, to get columns, pages or articles confused or interchanged; and these accidents, when they do take place, are sure to occur just where they are least wanted, and in respect of articles in regard to which they are least desirable. And this is precisely what occurred in the last issue of the BEE JOURNAL in reference to the article "My Head Trouble," which unfortunately made its appearance in two parts—the first, "concluded from page 140," of the last No., putting in its appearance on pp. 154-55, and the last on pp. 150-51, with our two prize essays and some editorial matter skilfully sandwiched between the two parts. We are happy to say that we are not often tormented in this way; but upon this occasion we have to acknowledge the corn, make our apology, and promise "not to do it again."

In glancing over Mr. Corneil's article, in last issue of the C.B.J., we observe that Mr. Corneil is of opinion that individual exhibits are limited to fifty lbs. of extracted, and one hundred lbs. of comb honey. This is evidently a mistake; though we must confess we had the same impression until a few days ago, when we called on Mr. Awrey, the commissioner, who informed us that this was not so, but that individual exhibits could not exceed fifty lbs. for any one kind. For instance, a bee-keeper could exhibit fifty lbs. of clover, fifty of

basswood, fifty of thistle, or fifty of any other kind. Mr. A. also informed us that a large number had already accepted the invitation to exhibit, some promising to send as much as a thousand lbs. We make this correction, as a number of bee-keepers seem to be laboring under the same mistake. We trust every bee-keeper will endeavor to exhibit at least one or two hundred lbs. of extracted honey, and one hundred lbs. of comb honey. It will be necessary to have all in readiness to ship to some central point, which will be designated by the commissioner in the near future, shipments to be made not later than the latter part of next March. The Government will appoint a superintendent, whose duty it will be to supervise the exhibit, and have it placed as tastefully as possible in the place allotted for it.

#### Those Flattering Remarks.

"Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer by the son of York," who compliments us so handsomely by stating that "THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL has been much improved during the past three months." Thanks, friend York! Nathless, it won't do to be hypercritical. Please take things just as you find them, and make the best of them, as you see we do. By the way, let us also, in our turn, congratulate the A.B.J. on the improved conditions also discernible all along the lines.

#### SPECIAL OFFER.

##### The Best System for Wintering Bees.

AS an inducement to our readers to give us their opinions on this important subject, we have determined to offer them two advertising prizes—1st prize to consist of \$5 worth of advertising, and one copy of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL to any address for one year; the second to consist of \$2 50 worth of advertising and a copy of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL to any address for one year.

Competitors may forward their MSS. any time between this and 12th of September, at which date the competition will be closed.

If you require catalogues, circulars, notes, cards, envelopes; or anything in the line of job printing give us an opportunity of estimating.