

...The Canadian Bee Journal

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

NEW SERIES
VOL. XI, No. 4

BRANTFORD, ONT., APRIL, 1904.

WHOLE No
470.

ANNUAL MEETING OF ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

(Continued from Page 177).

Mr. Holtermann: I do not see how, unless the Government gets hold of matters and gives an Act in the direction of inspection, we can do anything. This association is a provincial Association and if it passed a resolution that there should be a certain grading of honey in this province what would it be worth? Nothing at all. The only way is to have a Dominion Act. I am not above receiving Government aid in these directions and, gentlemen, if we are going to change the present conditions of having honey thrown into large centres and brought down to the price that it is, we must have some different mode of working than at present. What we want to do, and the men who are in the government can do it better than we can, is to equalize the circulation and not let that honey be thrown into the large centres such as Toronto and Montreal which has the effect of ruining the market in other sections. We should be above receiving.

Mr. Dickenson: I think information could be got from the head of the Canadian Department in England with regard to reliable commission men and I do not see why

there could not be honey sent through those commission men.

Mr. Brown: It appears to me that a few years ago at the Convention held in the city of Toronto, Professor Robertson offered to procure a market for the members of this Association any time they called upon him.

Mr. Holtermann: When a dry-goods man sends a commercial traveller to sell his goods he does not send a grocer or hardware man. He has too much sense for that. If you want to sell honey the man to send is one who knows all the ins and outs of honey and he can show wherein the Canadian honey is superior to something else or this man's honey superior to another man's. If we are content to work on the principle to send a grocer out to sell drygoods we will be content with having men who do not know how to handle honey, and do not know how to talk it. As far as I am concerned I want to say quite candidly I would never be satisfied with that condition.

Mr. McEvoy: I got four shillings a hundred more than any other honey that entered the British market this year. Mr. Dickenson knows that 36,000 pounds more was asked provided it was equal. I could not touch it in Ontario because I was not sure I could get an article that would fill the bill.

Mr. Byer: That is why it needs Government supervision.

Mr. Morrison: I think the difference

between the speakers has been with reference to whether honey should be graded at all for the British market, I know one man this year who had two tons of honey and a super of a Langstroth hive held all the cappings he had from that ton. If that man was to ship that honey to the British market what are the British going to think of Canadian honey? I was glad when I heard this exchange committee had laid down rules for grading. The Government of our country is looking after the trade of our country; they form our tariff laws. The government of every civilized country to-day is looking after its commerce and finding where its people can exchange their goods and build up their market. Are we going to use our government or not? We are willing to take Government grants to our Association. Why are we not willing to let them go on and seek out a market for us? I think that is what the Government exists for, for the benefit and welfare of the country. We have Lord Strathcona there. He can find out at once, where there is a demand made, for the benefit of this country; he can find commission men that are safe to ship to and if our Government says so we will appoint a man like Mr. McEvoy or Mr. Dickenson to inspect all the honey and say it must be up to that standard we will get a market that other countries cannot compete with and we will get the extra four shillings on it. That is what we are after and we cannot get it without a higher grading.

Mr. Fixter: How would it do to amalgamate with the Fruit Exchange or send the honey to them. Have the present Committee thought over that. We have two exchanges in Ottawa that handle a good deal of fruit from this country.

Mr. Gemmell: Will they sell our

honey first and their fruit afterwards?

Mr. Pettit: I think it would be interesting to the meeting if Mr. Fixter would tell us something about the working of the Fruit Exchange.

Mr. Fixter: I think they sell on a percentage. You have to get men that are reliable at the other end to do business.

Mr. Darling: I have never had anything to do with that exchange beyond being a spectator there in business hours. I have seen them selling maple syrup. I have never shipped so I do not know on what conditions they sell but it is sold by auction. The man who manages the exchange is the auctioneer. He will have his fruit or syrup arranged where it can be seen. He says in the first place nobody but those who are in the business can buy. Then the fruit is put up, oranges, lemons or our western fruit, whatever chances to be on just then, and he says, I have so many cases, how much will you bid? He will wait for perhaps two or three bids and maybe he will only get one. If it is a bid he will accept he says, How many cases will you take? And he says, do any more want at that price? Or if the price is a little too low he says, we wont sell any more at that price. The man who ships there takes what he can get less whatever he is charged for the transaction.

Mr. Lowey: They are simply commission men. I have nothing to say for or against it but I would not advise it. I think the proper line is to get a man acquainted with honey who understands something about it to take it and sell it and see it is properly stored and so on. I know of honey that was sold in England at thirty-five cents a section. I am satisfied that there is a good market in the Old Country and in this Country.

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Mr. Mason: Mr. Holtermann is on the right track as a business man and I don't see why the Government should not aid us as well as the pork men. The product of the bee is equal to the product of the hog or anything else and if the Government has to step in and see we do not pollute the British market with poor apples or pork they have the same right to step in to see we do not give the people of Britain a wrong impression with regard to honey. All we have to do is to appoint a responsible and capable man in Montreal to receive our honey who can judge this honey and if it is not proper return it at the senders expense and he won't repeat it. Then have a responsible person at the other end to dispose of the honey. We do not want any \$50,000 capital; we can all lay out of our honey a few weeks and the man at Montreal can send back what every man is entitled to. I don't think you would have the least trouble in handling 20,000 pounds in this way and in a short time every bee-keeper would know exactly what kind of honey to send. I thought when I heard of this exchange that is just the way they were going to do.

The President: We would need to be incorporated to do anything like Mr. Mason says and we would need to have more money than we had last year to do that. It would cost about \$130 for incorporation papers.

Mr. Pettit: As to what our Honey Exchange Committee is to do for us next year I would suggest in the meantime until we decide to form a stock company or do something like that, that they go on as they have been doing collecting statistics in the spring, number of colonies that have come through the winter and the conditions they are in, and at different times during the summer as to

the prospects and the honey that is coming in and get these reports to the members as quickly as possible that the men would have an idea of what the market is to be, what is to be done and what the prices will probably be. I think this is all the committee can do at present. I think it will be well worth the membership fee to have the reports.

Mr. Holtermann: I understand there were sixty-two members of that honey exchange last year paid one dollar membership fee. If what is to be done is simply to gather those statistics and send those reports out, why not use the Ontario Bee Keepers' Association to do that.

Mr. Sibbald: I move, seconded by Mr. Byer that the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association appoint a Committee to collect crop reports and distribute the same to the members, also to approach the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa with a view to establishing a market in England with power to arrange a system of grading and inspection under special Act of Parliament.

The President: Put the motion which, on a vote having been taken, was declared carried.

Mr. Byer: I believe this Committee did everything they could and did a lot of hard work, especially Mr. Couse, and he has received no remuneration whatever and while I will not put it in the form of a resolution I would suggest that he receive the balance that is left over. However I take pleasure in moving that a hearty vote of thanks be tendered our Committee for this last year for the work they have done.

Mr. Pettit: I have great pleasure in seconding the motion.

The President put the motion, which, on having been taken, was declared carried.

Mr. Hall: I would suggest that that balance of money stay with the Committee: they can use it.

Mr. Gemmell: I would move, seconded by Mr. Hall, that the old Committee act again in the same capacity and they will get another vote of thanks next year. (Laughter)

The President put the motion, which, on a vote having been taken, was declared carried.

Mr. Fixter: Is the Committee to gather statistics for Ontario or for the whole Dominion? Would it not be well to have the statistics for the whole Dominion?

Mr. Lott: As I understand that resolution, it is of a Dominion character. We are to approach the Dominion Parliament through that Committee to ask for special legislation in the interests of the bee-keepers and I would think it would be quite necessary for them to go outside of the boundary of Ontario. I look upon it as a Dominion matter from that standpoint and I think the statistics that are gathered should be from the Dominion of Canada or from the Bee-Keepers' Associations in Quebec and other parts of the different Provinces.

Mr. McEvoy: This Committee after all did a lot of good in the Province of Ontario. They set the price at seven-and-a-half cents and it did a great deal of good all over.

The President: If there is no other suggestion we will close under this head?

Mr. Lott: It is moved by myself, seconded by Mr. Post that a committee be appointed to revise the bylaws of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association in conformity with the Agriculture and Art Act, said committee to report at the morning's session and to consist of the mover, seconder, and Messrs Sparling, Holtermann and Armstrong.

Mr. Byer: Before that motion is put I would like to move in amendment that the names of our Secretary and President be added to that committee.

Mr. Lott: I consent to that.

After some discussion as to whether this resolution should not be introduced under the head of new business at another time the president put the motion which, on a vote having been taken, was declared carried.

QUESTION DRAWER.

Conducted by C. W. Post.

Question: What size of hive do you prefer?

Mr. Post: I use a nine frame Langstroth hive. For extracted honey if I made any change I would add more frames and use a larger hive.

Question: How can old covers be repaired that are checked and leak? Would it do to cover them with tin and paint them?

Mr. Post: I should say if there were very many large checks in them to cover them with tin and then paint them.

Question: In moving bees what is the proper way to close the entrance to hive and allow sufficient ventilation.

Mr. Post: I think the better way is to screen the tops and bottoms of the hive and cover the entrance with a tight piece of material of any kind. That is the way I do.

Mr. Holtermann: I am very sorry that my friend Post is so very far behind the times. I will tell you the proper way to do is to have a portico on the front of the hive, two and half inches, sides of portico just a trifle over the board that goes across the top they have a groove and the day you want to move your bees take the screens and slide them down out of the way' tip them a little sideways and they stay better. When

are going to move our bees just as quickly in the evening as the bees quit flying and sometimes before then, we just go around and drop those screens. By having that portico the bees can come out of the front of the hive and they do not feel confined to the same extent. If you put a wire screen against the entrance the bees try to get out and they will choke that entrance.

Mr. Post: Do you have any other ventilation?

Mr. Holtermann: None whatever and in the very hottest days they will not smother,

Q. Do you find bee escapes a success?

Mr. Post: I do in taking section honey but not for extracted honey.

Q. What is the most effective way of preventing increase of colonies in out apiaries for extracting honey?

Mr. Post: I give plenty of surplus room and screen the bottoms of the hives and have no queen excluders on them. I very seldom get swarms, that is the way I manage some of my bees. Some have two tops on and some have three while others only have one. There is a frame made the exact size of the bottom of the hive of inch stuff and the wire cloth is nailed on top. This screen is held in place by Van Dusen clamps, one on each side, we close the entrance up and load them in car load lots. There is a screen above and one below and we never have any bees perish, and that, in the month of August. We dont use a bottom board on the hive at all through the honey season, just a wire cloth screen.

Mr. Dickenson: That depends on what locality you are in. I would not recommend screens in some localities. I tried screens two years ago, very much impressed with Mr. Post's idea of preventing swarming,

and the very first five colonies that came off all had screens on.

Mr. Post: They might have had the swarming impulse before you put them on.

Mr. Pettit: In hiving swarms on the bottom board with the screen, we had difficulty in getting them to stay in the hive. "Shook swarms" would not stay.

Mr. Hall: I am the child that asked that question. The reason I ask is because I know Mr. Post is a very superior bee-keeper. I know he succeeds by screening the bottom. It is a grand institution for moving bees, but in our section of the country that screen at the bottom does not succeed in preventing swarms, it only retards them; I dont know but that they gather some more honey.

Mr. Gemmell: I endorse you exactly. The locality makes a difference.

Q. What will I hive my swarms on? Starters three quarters of an inch wide, full sheets of foundation or drawn combs?

Mr. Post: For comb honey I believe it is a good thing, and that you will get more honey to hive them on starters three quarters of an inch wide, but for extracted honey I would take full sheets of foundation or drawn comb.

Mr. Pettit: I tried hiving just a little on drawn combs this last summer and my experience has been preparations for swarming in just three weeks from the time the swarm was hived on the drawn comb; that was for extracted honey.

Mr. Sibbald: My experience in that is something the same as Mr. Pettit's. I would like to ask Mr. Post his reason.

Mr. Post: For extracted honey I would want full combs below; either frames of foundation or drawn combs. You cant get them to build combs below to advantage if they

can store honey above in empty combs.

Mr. Sibbald: What is the object?

Mr. Post: I want to get the honey above. In my way of thinking you cant get combs sufficiently strong for bees in naturally built combs.

Mr. Holtermann: Why not let them build natural combs on wire? It works alright.

Mr. Post: We have never tried that.

Mr. Sibbald: Mr. Post wants his bees in good shape for buckwheat and he wants some comb to breed on. There is no doubt he is right in that.

Mr. Armstrong: What has Mr. Post on the top?

Mr. Post: I would put a queen excluder on and put on full drawn combs and either foundation or full drawn combs below. I wouldnt put them on starters.

Mr. Sibbald: Would you if you were in a locality where there was no buckwheat nor fall flow?

Mr. Post: I dont know. I would have to think awhile.

Mr. Fixter I think it would be more important in that case to have full drawn combs.

Mr. Dickenson: It depends whether you are working to increase or keep down increase.

Mr. McEvoy: I would use full combs in every case.

Mr. Morrison: Why should a man leave his combs lying there and buy foundation?

Mr. Post: I dont think he should do it.

Mr. Holtermann: I dont like the idea of using starters below and full combs above. I dont like the idea of using sheets of foundation below and full combs above. If I wanted to use full combs above I believe I would use full combs below, if I had them, and if that wouldnt do then I

would make them go as far as they would and I would use foundation below and foundation above when they swarm because if you have a right and proper swarm and the honey flow on they will draw out all the foundation in a twelve framed Langstroth hive in the brood chamber in forty-eight hours anyway.

Mr. Post: You want a queen excluder on?

Mr. Holtermann: Yes.

Mr. Mason: When you put in a new swarm do you put on the super at the same time or a few days after?

Mr. Post: If the honey is coming in good put it on at the start.

Mr. Lowey: In hiving swarms I usually place them with the supers on before the bees are hived, with all drawn combs if I have them, not with all sheets of foundation, but of course I contract.

Mr. Edmonson: I have had hives swarmed on full sheets of foundation with combs above and I have got sealed honey with not an ounce below, the foundation not being touched.

Mr. Dickenson: I think that difficulty can be overcome in this way, to put one comb in the centre of the brood next and the rest foundation. Dont be in too big a hurry putting on the top story.

Mr. Pettit: I would like to find a little fault with Mr. Dickenson just now. He has brought out a point I have in a paper to read to-morrow morning and it is a very good point. I think it is too bad Mr. Dickenson stole it from me, that is this one comb.

Mr. McEvoy: In putting that in the bees have got a chance to store the pollen.

Mr. Dickenson: That is just my difficulty.

Q. Would you prefer for extracting supers frames six inches in depth or the full depth Langstroth?

Mr. Post: I would take full depth Langstroth or any frame that is interchangeable with the brood nest.

Q. Would it be profitable to bring bees from out apiaries and put all in one cellar and then in the spring put them all out in one yard till just before the honey flow, after which they are put into their respective out yards?

Mr. Post: Yes, it would be alright.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Mr. Darling presented the Directors' Report which was as follows:— The season of 1903 has come and gone, and the year has been rather peculiar, in that, while the West and Centre of the province have been favored with good crops, the East has suffered a comparative failure.

The sum of \$200.00 was set apart for affiliated societies, all of which has been paid according to bylaw.

The usual grants of \$25.00, \$10.00 and \$10.00 were made to the Toronto Industrial, Western and Central Fair Associations, respectively.

After communicating with the Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion, it was decided to collect 1500 or 1600 pounds of extracted, and 400 or 500 pounds of comb honey to be placed in the St. Louis Exhibition. This matter is being attended to at the present time.

The Treasurer's Report shows that our finances are in good condition, but not as good as we could wish, as a small sum which should have been paid last year was left over to this year. Also the expenses to this Meeting have been somewhat heavier, otherwise our finance would be ahead of last year.

As has been customary for several years, the Canadian Bee Journal has been sent to the members of the Association, also a copy of the Annual Report.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee, held later, it was decided to supplement the grant to the Industrial Exhibition by \$20.00 in view of it having a Dominion Exhibition.

INSPECTOR OF APIARIES REPORT.

During 1903 I visited the bee yards in the Counties of Huron, Middlesex, Perth, Brant, Peel, York, Ontario, Simcoe, Norfolk, Haldimand, Victoria, Lanark, Leeds and Russell. I inspected ninety-six apiaries, and found foul brood in twenty-eight of them, and dead brood of other kinds in many others, which had been mistaken for foul brood. Some of the dead brood was the result of spraying fruit trees while in bloom, and in other places I found it to be starved brood and not foul brood at all. I received orders to go to certain localities as soon as possible, where some men claimed that they had located several cases of foul brood. When I got there I found that the big losses in bees were the result of starvation. After that I received orders to go to other localities where several apiaries were said to be very bad with foul brood, and when I got there and examined every colony I found them completely cured, and not a trace of the disease left.

No Province or State in the world was in as bad a condition with foul brood as Ontario was, when I was first given charge of the Province thirteen years ago last spring. It took time to get the people taught so that they could cure all diseased apiaries by all my methods of treatment from May to October, and at the finish to have every colony in first-class condition. It is over 28 years since I discovered how to cure any foul broody apiary from May to October. If I had only been able to cure during the honey season I never would have accomplished much or

whose skins are thicker than mine
keep mum or do as they please.

W. J. Brown.

Pendleton Feb. 1904

Friend Brown.—We are sorry you do not agree with us on the points referred to above. How far you voice the sentiments of others is a question; while there were differences of opinion and argument upon certain matters at the meeting referred to, we think that on the whole there was an excellent spirit shown, and the speakers maintained their points well. Prof. C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, who was present during the debate referred to, said afterwards, in his address, "I am very glad indeed through these discussions, which become more or less heated, the members do not forget themselves, but that more or less of what we call gentlemanly treatment is found to wind them up. It augurs well for an Association to have active, live, wide-awake members, if you do not carry your discussions to too great a length. I am sure nothing but good will result from keen, close criticism of these questions, the one we had up this afternoon and the foul brood question which is coming up to-night".

We had no secrets to keep from the readers of the C. B. J. or the members of the Ontario Bee-Keepers Association, sufficient appeared in earlier issues to warrant our statement regarding a "threatening storm". Would refer you to our editorial remark in the December number, and we might also state, for you information, that on account of personalities indulged in we had to omit the publication of considerable matter that came to us from members of the Association and others previous to the annual meeting; for the same reason we have been

compelled to omit parts of your letter, trust you will excuse the liberty, and think the better of us for it, but must definitely state that we do not intend to use the Journal for the purpose of airing personalities.

It is unfair of you to associate the Journal and its Editor with individuals and circumstances over which we have no control, nor have they any over us, the Journal stands on its own merits exclusively, we have endeavored to steer as straight a course as possible unbiased and unprejudiced. We consider it was within our right and privilege to make the comments we did in the January issue. How you can read into them "reflections upon the Officers of the Ontario Bee-Keepers Association" is not very plain to us, or why you should single yourself out as the object of such an imaginary attack. We certainly never intended it in this way.

We are grateful to the Officers of the Ontario Bee-Keepers Association for their patronage and trust to have a continuance of the same. We are certain they will not admire the Canadian Bee Journal any the less for being honest and outspoken in its convictions. But you must surely be aware friend Brown if you will stop to think for a moment that the O. B. K. A. does not form the sole support of the magazine; we have a FEW other subscribers outside the Association with which this "little journal issued once a month" is growing in favor as is evidenced by our monthly and annual increase. We would be pleased with the kindly and hearty co-operation of yourself, other Officers, through the Journal to induce these good people to join the Association and make it a stronger and even a more useful Organization than it has been. But we will never do this by quarreling.—Editor

THE
CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

Devoted to the Interests of Bee-Keepers,

Published Monthly by

GOOLD, SHAPLEY & MUIR CO.
(LIMITED)

BRANTFORD - CANADA.

Editor, W. J. Craig.

APRIL, 1904.

Amount of Wax in old Comb.

Mr. George Wood, Wesley Ont^s writes us.—On page 284, July number C. B. J. report of Chicago and North-Western Convention the question came up as to the amount of wax that could be rendered from old combs. Perhaps the result of a test I made last winter might be of interest to some of your readers. I melted 142 old brood combs, Langstroth size, using a Goold Shapley & Muir press. I got from them $42\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of clean wax or one pound from about $3\frac{1}{3}$ combs; a little over $4\frac{2}{3}$ ounces from each comb.

Thank you friend Wood for your experiment. Mr. France says "the quantity of wax depends altogether on the age of the comb" he thinks on an average that he obtained three or four pounds of wax to a set of eight or ten combs. This is a somewhat wide guess, we believe that you are much nearer the greatest possible quantity, as the weight of drawn comb Langstroth size used one season in extracting supers and built on full sheets of foundation eight sheets to the pound or two ounces of wax to the sheet, only averages about six and a half ounces.

Death of Mr. A. Boomer, Linwood.

It is with regret that we announce to our readers the death of Mr. A. Boomer of Linwood. We have only recently received this information ourselves though the sad event took place on January 27th. Mr. Boomer's apiary, new residence and property are offered for sale in the advertising columns of this issue. Our readers will remember our reference to the unfortunate fire that occurred last summer destroying Mr. Boomer's comfortable residence and honey-house and contents. It seems that the old gentleman though he had wonderful energy and worked hard to replace his loss never fully recovered from the shock and his constitution gave way under the strain. Mr. Boomer was a well known figure at the meetings of the Ontario Bee-Keepers Association of which he has been for many years a member. He was Clerk of the Fifth Division Court County of Waterloo besides conducting considerable Insurance and Conveyance business and agencies.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

There is a proposition by the Department of Agriculture that a joint convention of Fruit Growers, Honey Producers and Horticulturalists be held in the city of Toronto next fall or winter and to have in connection therewith, a fruit, honey and flower show at which these commodities may be displayed and demonstrated along with all the

instruments and implements used in their production. The idea of the Department is that an annual educational fair might be inaugurated to benefit these industries somewhat along the same line as the live stock show which is held annually at Guelph.

The matter was brought before the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Trenton meeting by Professor C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and was very favorably received; in consequence the next annual meeting was decided to be held in Toronto, the date to be fixed by the Executive in conjunction with the Executives of the other Associations interested. The arrangement we think is an excellent one; apart from value as an advertisement it will give Bee-Keepers and Fruit Growers an opportunity of discussing their differences and mutual interests.

General heavy winter losses in bees wintered outside. In Quebec and Northern Ontario where the bee-keepers are accustomed to severe winters and prepare their bees accordingly they fared better.

We understand that the amendments to the Foul Brood Act will not be brought before the Provincial House this session. We hope to be able to publish these amendments in an early issue of the C. B. J.

Prof. C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture speaking at the Trenton Convention paid the following high compliment to the intelligence of the meeting.—

"I have enjoyed your meeting and the flow of eloquence we heard this afternoon was quite refreshing. We do not meet with that very often in our Conventions. I did not know there was so much dormant eloquence in this society and it has certainly been raised in my estimation very much indeed. You have got the energy here if you only use it in the right direction."

Out of 80 colonies, have only lost two, and not more than six at all weak; the best I have had for years. There are many reports, however, of heavy losses, as high as 70 per cent. Most of the losses are where the parties are very careless in putting their bees away.

WM. HARTRY,
Seaforth Ont.

Took bees out of cellar Wednesday 23rd March, mostly in good condition, none dead. Outside bees only fair, 5 per cent dead.

MORLEY PETTIT,
Belmont Ont.

Bees in this vicinity are not through with the winter yet, prospects anything but bright. One year ago to-day (April 2nd) mine were bringing in pollen, to-day there is from 1 to 2 feet of snow in the yard. In a few days it will be five months since my bees had a fly.

SAMUEL WOOD,
Nottawa Ont.

The bees in this district are going to come out very late and I think from all accounts with heavy losses in many instances. Have heard of several bee-keepers having lost a number by starvation in the cellar.

J. C. MACCALLUM,
Lochabor Bay, Que.

Hints For Beginners

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

In this district as a rule, the first pollen comes in by or before April 1st. Others can gauge their conditions by the advent of this stimulus for the hive. If many colonies of bees are to be set out, say 40 or more, it is well not to put out more than fifteen or twenty at a time. Set out the previous night or very early in the morning of a favorable day. By so doing there is less excitement, no danger at all of swarming out and it avoids weak colonies becoming still more depopulated by having the bees from the weaker join the stronger stocks in their flight. Ventilate the cellar thoroughly the night they are to be set out or if they are to be put out the following day, This quiets the bees and they are likely to fly out more quietly. It is also well to adjust entrances as soon as the bees are placed in the yard and if there is too much or too little room regulate later. Light colonies should be marked when taking out and given combs of honey if possible the very first chance or if they are strong in bees, fed. If the bottom boards are loose, as they always should be, as soon as the bees settle down after flying, the brood chamber should be raised and if any dead bees cannot readily be scraped off, the bottom board should be changed a clean board being put in its place. The condition of the colony can generally be pretty well gauged from the under side of the combs and unless the bees have too much room requiring the removal of combs and a division board or follower, or they are short of stores, requiring feeding, it is best to allow

the sealed quilt to remain untouched on the combs. This is especially true with the cheap wood covers so generally in use. An ordinary stock of bees should now have 15 to 20 lbs of honey in reserve, many a stock does not build up readily in spring because it has not plenty of honey; eggs are deposited by the queen which owing to checks in the natural flow of honey and insufficient stores never become mature bees. This providing of food should be seen to in the fall, but if it has been neglected it should be done the first favorable weather. Weak colonies I would not feed syrup or liquid honey if I could give them combs of honey from strong colonies. Rather feed the strong colonies for they can take up, store and ripen the syrup better, and with them there is less danger of robbing. There are many feeders, I know of no better spring feeder than the Doolittle division board feeder. You can make it by taking an ordinary frame, nail on each side of it a $\frac{3}{8}$ inch thick board coming to within a half inch of the top bar. This can be made water tight by pouring into it melted paraffine or wax, giving the wood inside a coating of the material used, this makes it water tight and prevents the syrup from soaking into the wood. In the top bar bore a $\frac{3}{8}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ inch hole near one end of the top bar; by means of a small funnel the syrup can from the top be poured into the feeder. The frame can be hung in one side of the hive and filled with warm syrup. This feeder has the advantage of cheapness, it can readily be filled without disturbing the bees or allowing much warm air to escape from the brood chamber. Now for the syrup, take granulated sugar and enough "coffee A" sugar (brown) to flavor it and mix two parts sugar to one of water by measure have the water boiling and stir as the sugar is poured into the water to prevent

burning: Some springs the bees gather frequently and are stimulated by natural means to brood rear, others again are catchy, maple will open and in a day or so the weather becomes cold and the bees get no more from this source and so on. It is absurd to say bees should not receive stimulative feeding when such are the conditions. What is the difference whether the bees are stimulated from inside or outside as far as brood rearing by the bees is concerned. Be sure and have no syrup left about, or leaky feeders. Contract the entrances so the bees have room to fly nicely. Put every comb back into the hive in the order in which it was taken from the hive and with the same side to the centre of the hive. When 60° or more and the bees are working, see that each colony has a laying queen. You may not know the queen, but, if the worker cells have brood and the capped cells not projecting and rounded, it is a worker brood. Let the brood chamber get pretty well crowded before you give the bees more room. It is a very dangerous practice for a beginner in bee-keeping to spread brood and during April it should not be done. Do not expose combs for robbing. If you should be so unfortunate as to have foul brood among your bees run no risk with weak colonies, destroy them rather than run the risk of having your other colonies or your neighbors infected through these being robbed out. Everything is to be gained, nothing can be lost by reporting the disease to the President of the Ontario Beekeepers Association: J. W. Sparling, Bowmanville, Ont. It will cost you nothing the Province pays the expense.

Brantford, Ont.

EXTRACTED HONEY FOR BEGINNERS?

Comments By B---ville.

Now friend H. what are you teaching? You, who for so long a time have insisted that we produce a better quality of honey, now advise a novice to start right out to produce extracted honey. Do you not know that a novice is almost sure to produce a poor specimen of the extracted article, that he is apt to be over zealous and take off his honey before it is ripe? That is the way it strikes me.

Judging from my own experience I know that I produced some poor extracted honey, in fact I scarcely knew good honey. You know friend H. it takes some experience to know good extracted honey.

Again, our novice, starting with but two or three colonies may not wish to go to the expense of buying an extractor, knife, cans etc. As you rightly observe, the tyro at bee-keeping very frequently remains but a brief period in the business. This, then is all the more reason, I think, for not advising too great an expenditure in commencing.

Let our novice then take comb to begin with. It will necessitate less expenditure, and, as he will allow it to get capped before he takes it off, the honey itself will be so good as an expert can obtain. Although it may not be in quite so good shape it will be sold in his home market and will not hurt the sale of honey as an inferior quality of extracted will.

You state that the fact, that the bees are more likely to swarm, puts comb honey production out of the reach of the novice. What kind of novice is this you have in mind? Why the sound of a swarm in the air is music in the ear of a novice, increase of colonies is the very thing he desires.

Then so far as deficient stores are concerned, bees must act differently in your locality to what they do in ours. With us it is the comb honey colonies that are well supplied and the extracting colonies that take it all "up-stairs" except those that are contracted and our novice is not likely to attempt that at first.

Regarding winter loss—I notice that with the inexperienced the loss is far greater where extracting is practiced.

I would put my bees out any time after the middle of March that the snow is off the ground, choosing for this purpose a day warm enough for them to fly. I would not wait for the soft maples to bloom as was formerly recommended.

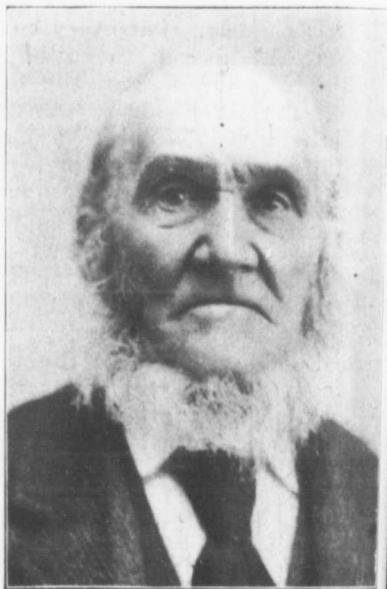
So far as protection after setting out is concerned, few bee-keepers, after the number of their colonies increases, continue to practice it. For my own part, all the protection I give is to place a newspaper under the cover and crowd it down, (the covers telescope $\frac{1}{2}$ inch) and I am not sure that even that is worth the trouble.

MR. ROBERT COVERDALE CANFIELD ONT.

We are pleased to introduce to our readers (in photo) another of the pioneers of Canadian bee-keeping, Mr. Robert Coverdale, of Canfield, Ont., whose experience has now passed the half-century mark. Mr. Coverdale has been for many years a firm friend and supporter of the Canadian Bee Journal and is held in very high esteem in his vicinity and with all who know him. We wish him spared yet many years to his favorite pursuit. He has kindly supplied us with the following brief history of his bee-keeping:

"I was born near Whitby, York-

shire, England, in the year 1824. My father, who was weaver by trade, emigrated to this country when I was seven years of age and first settled in the township of Nelson, Halton County. I can remember my father keeping bees in England in the old fashioned straw hives. I bought a hive of bees for my father from a Mr. Lagdon, in Nelson, near Lowville, about the year 1845. A friend and I brought them to my father's place—ten miles distant—on horse back, a sheet tied around the old box hive



Mr. Robert Coverdale.

and a pole put through to carry it by.

I moved with my father to near what is now the village of Canfield, in the Township of North Cayuga, in the year 1848, and commenced to hew out a home from the surrounding forest for myself soon after I arrived.

I commenced to keep bees for my

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self in 1851. I now have in my apiary about 83 hives which are descendants of the bees I carried on horse back in Nelson about 1845.

I have been very successful in the business as I never suffered a total loss of my bees in that long time. I abandoned the old box hive for the better rack hive about 20 years ago.

I have been a subscriber to the Canadian Bee Journal since its first publication and would very much recommend it to Bee-Keepers.

Robt. Coverdale.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

By a York County Bee-Keeper.

A SUGGESTION AS TO CHEAP HIVE MATERIAL.

The following account as to how a German bee-keeper economizes, (?) I copy from the American Bee-Keeper:

"A receptacle is filled up with the paper (waste paper) and the latter is covered with water, thus it is left for several days, then it is hauled over with a garden rake and stirred smooth until it is a sort of pudding. This is then poured into forms and smoothed down. In this shape it is left to dry for several weeks, when the paper boards are dry enough to be made up into hives. They can be sawed, bored or nailed but not planed. I make the boards 1½ inches thick. The hives made from them are very warm in winter and cool in summer, well painted they resist the weather first rate, with the primitive means employed I have not been able to make hives all in one piece."

While it is not likely that paper hives will be in use in this country for

some time, yet the above account is surely a straw that indicates which way the wind is blowing. Pails, washtubs and even car wheels are being made of paper to-day, so it requires no great stretch of imagination to think of paper hives as being a common thing in the not distant future.

CONTRACTION OF WEAK COLONIES.

"Chaff cushions divisions are preferable to boards alone, as they are warmer", quoth the Editor of the American Bee-Keeper. He further says that all weak colonies should be contracted by division boards, of course this is orthodox teaching and will be endorsed by the majority of apiarists. For some time I was very careful about doing this every spring if any weak colonies were found, until by way of carelessness some were left with full size of hive. To my surprise found that such colonies built up just as fast as those contracted, this led to some experimenting along this line and the result has been that as far as I am concerned would not give a fig if weak colonies are contracted or not. There is something peculiar (which I am not prepared to explain) as to how bees retain the heat of cluster regardless of size of hive. We hear a great deal of putting in division boards to keep weak colonies warmer, when as a matter of fact the division boards ordinary in use have a bee space all around the ends and bottom and cannot possibly retain heat to any appreciable extent. To be sure tight fitting division boards can be used, but I venture to say that one trial will be enough unless the user is possessed of more than the usual quota of patience

A DEGRESSION.

At the risk of being taken to task for degressing from matters apicultural, I clip the following from the

American Bee Journal, page 196.

"Married, Feb. 8th, '04, in— Higginsville mo., Justice J. G. Roe officiating, R. B. Leahy, Ed, and Publisher of the Progressive Bee-Keeper, to Miss. Emily Braentigam. The bride is a young lady of nineteen niece of Mr. Leahy's former wife from whom he was divorced some two weeks previously, after a married life of about twenty three years."

While our American Cousins are certainly "hustlers" in many lines of business that call forth our admiration; when it comes to the divorce business we do not, however, envy them their noble record of the last ten years. Statistics for said period are interesting if not edifying. Our earnest wish is that the time may be far distant when notices like the foregoing will appear as regular items of news in our Canadian papers.

OUR RECENT SEVERE WINTER.

As might be expected many radical opinions are being expressed relative to results of out door wintering this past season. Ed Roots says, in commenting on a "straw" of Dr. Millers, "many facts go to show that out door wintering is practical only where the bees can have one, two or three days of mid winter flight, or we will say, days when a cluster can change its position, and thus get on to a fresh supply of stores."

With all due regard to Mr. Root would venture to say there is a vast difference between his two propositions. For instance, during four out of the last five winters our bees have not had a flight for about four months in each winter, this year they have not had a flight till to-day, for exactly nineteen weeks. Certainly the bees must have changed their positions during this time as they are nearly all wintered in ten and twelve frame Quniby hives. During Dec., Jan. and Feb. there were only three days that

mercury went above freezing point: as to results for the four preceding winters, losses have averaged about 8 per cent through queenlessness and other causes.

Bees have each year been in good enough shape to average over 100 lbs per colony spring count, as to this year it is of course too early to judge, although by appearances of two yards to-day (March 24th) have no fear that results will be so disastrous as to cause me to say that out door wintering is not "practical" in our locality. The third apiary has not yet been visited this spring, as it is not sheltered from the wind are looking for heavier losses there.

Mr. Hutchinson Ed of "Review" quite properly calls attention to the fact that universal good wintering for the past few seasons has made bee-keepers careless in regard to preparing their bees for a hard winter. Doubtless this fact will be responsible for many heavy losses this year.

Mr. Hutchinson also adds that "cellar wintering is the thing for this northern climate. There is no question about it." Excuse me Br'er Hutchinson but to some of us there is a "question" about it, and it will need more proof to convince us of the "error of our ways" than has yet been offered. It means considerable if a man has two or three hundred double walled hives, to discard them for single hives in order to winter in the cellar. The proposition is all the more doubtful if you have no cellar fit for the purpose. The fact also stares us in the face, that Messrs Miller, Mc Evoy and other prominent bee-keepers in Ont. winter outdoors exclusively, some of them having discarded the cellar after having tried it quite extensively.

Canadian Bee Journal and Montreal Weekly Witness, one year \$1.50

MANITOBA BEE-KEEPER'S CONVENTION

The Beekeepers' first annual meeting was held during Convention week in Foresters' hall. Mr. S. A. Bedford, president of the association occupied the chair and opened the meeting with an address dealing with the experiences of the past year. He said that the bees at the experimental farm had done exceedingly well and that the increase had been sufficient to enable him to meet the largely increased demand from the west and north-western parts of the province. It was the policy of the experimental farm to supply bees only until the generality of farmers were convinced of the possibility of successful work along that line. After that they must depend upon the regular sources of supply. He stated his belief that a great mistake would be made by sending to eastern Canada for bees, as there were very few, if any, apiaries there free from foul brood, and as Manitoba is free of this and all other diseases, we should be careful not to introduce it. He thought it cheaper to pay \$10 here for a swarm of bees than \$7.50 in the East, as the freight more than made up the difference, to say nothing of the risk of introducing disease.

The secretary's report on the year's work recommended that efforts be made to organize local bee-keepers' associations in affiliation with the provincial; that an increased effort be made to attract the hearty co-operation of all bee-keepers in the work of the association; that the association put forth every effort to have a worthy exhibit made at the Dominion Exhi-

bition this summer and that the secretary be kept supplied with list of all members having bees for sale.

A committee was appointed to take charge of the preparation of an exhibit for the Dominion Exhibition and to secure the co-operation of as many as possible of the bee-keepers of the province in this work. The association also offers to aid individual members who wish to exhibit in competition.

An address on the subject of exhibiting and preparing honey for exhibition was given by Mr. J. J. Gunn. A paper on "Bee-keeping for Ladies," by Mrs. A. Cooper, Treesbank, recommended the pursuit to the attention of farmers' wives. The paper was read by the chairman, who said in comment that women are usually successful as bee-keepers, owing to the careful attention which they give to details.

George Caron, St. Charles, gave the meeting the benefit of some of his experience in bee-keeping. After five years he is more enthusiastic than ever, and has greater belief in the possibilities of this industry. James Duncan, of Dominion City, and James Fargey, of Manitou, both spoke on the question of bees breeding and the winter care of bees. On the latter subject Mr. Bedford stated his determination in future to put all colonies into winter quarters with a good supply of syrup. If as a result the honey supply were more than sufficient to carry them through the winter it would stimulate than to earlier and stronger breeding in the spring.

The following officers were elected for 1904:

- President - S. A. Bedford.
- Vice-President—J. J. Gunn.
- Directors—George Caron, James Duncan, Allan Leslie.
- These will form the board of man-

agement, and at a meeting to be held at an early date will elect a secretary-treasurer for the coming year.

Winnipeg Man.

MILK PAINT FOR HIVES ETC.

The British Bee Journal gives the following cutting which may be of considerable interest and value to beekeepers in this county. Milk is much cheaper than linseed oil if it will serve the same purpose ; it is at least worth trying :—

“A use to which skim milk, sour milk, buttermilk, or even whole sweet milk is not often put is paint-making; yet it makes possibly one of the most enduring, respectable and inexpensive paints for barns and outbuildings, says the ‘Worlds Work.’

It cost little more than whitewash, provided no great value is attached to the milk, and it is a question whether for all kinds of rough work it does not serve all the purposes and more of the ready-mixed paint, or even prime lead and paint mixed in the best linseed oil. It is made as follows, and no more should be mixed than is to be used that day: Stir into a gallon of milk about three pounds of Portland cement, and add sufficient Venetian red-paint powder (costing 1½d. per pound) to impart a good colour. Any other coloured paint power may be as well used. The milk will hold the paint in suspension, but the cement being very heavy, will sink to the bottom, so that it becomes necessary to keep the mixture well stirred with a paddle. This feature of the stirring is the only drawback to the paint, and as its efficiency depends upon administering a good coating of cement, it is not safe to

leave its application to untrustworthy or careless help. Six hours after painting, this paint will be as immovable and unaffected by water as month-old oil paint.

“In buildings twenty years old painted in this manner the wood was well preserved. The writers experience dates back nine years, when he painted a small barn with this mixture, and the wood to-day shows no sign whatever of decay or dry-rot. The effect of such a coating seems to be to petrify the surface of the wood. Whole milk is better than buttermilk or skim milk, as it contains more oil, and this is the constituent which sets the cement.”

Beekeeping in Australia

Canadian Bee Journal,—

Compared with the experiences of your clients in Canada, Bee-keepers in the Commonwealth of Australia, are in clover, seeing we have not any winters so cold and severe, however at times we get some trials quite out of the ordinary. I have kept in close touch with Bee-Culture for ten years and the rule is to have a good extracting, so soon as the weather is warm enough to do so, but at present we are having an exceptional season and for the first time in my experience, feeding has of necessity to be practiced, to keep the bees alive.

With us swarming commences the latter end of August, lasting into October, depending whether, we have had, a mild or rough winter season. In mild weather we sometimes have well filled sections during the winter months, and in such cases, plenty of extracted is ready so soon as we get the hot sun, to enable it to be extracted.

flowers, and most are honey bearing, Clovers and Lucerne, have not yet become general amongst our farming people, but a few have grown it profitably, our principle honey-crop is from Gum trees, Jarrah, Black Butt, Karrie and other forest trees.

So much honey was placed on the market in the early days in a crude and unripe state, that it was difficult at first to find a market for extracted, but with the advances made, there is now not any doubt, that we have in Western Australia, honey equal to that of any other country, and tons of this going to waste during some seasons.

I have in hand, my own checkered experience, which reads almost like a romance, when completed perhaps it may be printed, who knows, perhaps you may have a copy sent for your journal. I enjoy your journal very much, tho' only so far as bee-keeping is concerned.

Novice.

We are pleased to hear from our Australian cousin and can assure him of our interest and a hearty welcome to our space. Our readers will bear in mind that the Australian season is just the reserve of ours.—Ed.

The Simcoe Co. Bee-Keepers Association will hold a spring meeting on Saturday, April 30th, next in Barrie.

Mr. Fixter of the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, will be in attendance and give an address on—"Management of the apiary and the growing of clover".

A full attendance of members is desired.

DENNIS NOLAN,
Sec'y.

During the past winter season, which with us has been very late, honey was stored and supers full and capped, by the end of August, but the season being late, and having wet, and stormy weather right to early in November, this surplus was consumed, and in some cases strong colonies were on the point of starvation, when we had the opportunity of examining them, since then not any nectar has been available, necessitating feeding liberally, which to us is quite a new and strange experience.

At the moment, bees are holding their own, but hot weather prevails, and bush fires, all around, consuming the little nectar available, points to our having a very poor honey season, and this prevails right through the State of Western Australia.

During the year 1900, the first convention of Bee-keepers was held in the city of Perth, when only a limited number, three or four, were depending entirely on their apiaries for a livelihood, and the number of colonies were about 1000 all told, since when the industry has advanced by leaps and bounds.

The general average per hive for extracted is about 120 lbs for the season, commencing September and ending in May. Last season my helper extracted well into June, ending with an average of 245 lbs per hive, this was a record as the season was, with an exception, commenced with 120 colonies, and finished in June with 165, but at the moment these are again reduced to near 100 colonies.

Hives principally the Dovetailed 10 frame, a few adopt the Heddon, others home-made, but the Langstrath frame mostly in general use.

Nothing is as yet being planted for honey, depending on the natural flora, which in general is in abundance, every shrub and weed carry

Q u e r i e s — A N D — A n s w e r s

[Department conducted by Mr. R. H. Smith, St. Thomas, Ontario. Queries may sent direct to Mr. Smith or to the office of the Canadian Bee Journal.]

QUESTION

I expect to move my bees in the spring, as this is not a good location, and would be glad of advice as to preparing hives to move. I hope to get them out between the first and fifteenth of April according to the season, and was thinking I could move them thirty days later. Would it be safe to move them with the bottom boards nailed on, with wire net at the entrance? The entrance is 3-8 x 6 in., and with a wire screen only 3-8 in. deep over the frames, or will they need it deeper and a screen all over the bottom? I have ninety-nine hives (eight frame), and expect to move first three miles by wagon, then load on the cars, then afterward I would have another wagon trip of six or seven miles. The bees will be closed in four or five days at the most or it may be only three days.—
C. Blake.

ANSWER

To move bees at any time after the winter is past one of the prime essentials is sufficient ventilation. Some years ago when about April 15th I moved to St. Thomas I brought thirty-five colonies of bees with other goods in a box car. The bees were prepared as follows:—The bottom board was already nailed on, then I fastened the frames by laying a thin strap across the ends with 3-4 in. nail driven into each frame; all the strong colonies had a

two inch run on top covered with thin factory cotton. The weaker ones had no run. The weather happened to turn very warm just when I was ready to move. So, as an extra precaution, I kept the car door open day and night; they were on the train thirty hours. At one stopping place I closed up the car for nearly an hour, and on opening the car I found the temperature very high and the bees roaring in great distress, and honey running from the entrances of two hives; after that I kept the door open and they quieted down. On examination next day I found five or six combs broken down, enough to show what might have happened if the car had been closed for a longer time.

If I had to move your bees I should proceed in the following way. If the bottom boards are nailed on I would leave them so; if not nailed they must be made secure. And if the frames are propolized down and bridged with comb, or the Hoffman style or self spacing frames they will probably need no further fastening. If not they should be fastened down as before mentioned. Then take a rim or empty section super four or five inches deep, cover it with wire cloth, place it on the hive and fasten down with strips of lath nailed on each corner as far as the date weather is cool it may be necessary to put rims only on strong colonies but, "it is better to be sure than sorry," close the entrance with wire screen. Draw on spring wagon frames running across the wagon and get a slatted or cattle car if possible and they can be closed in, if necessary. Load on car with frames running lengthwise of the car, and if the weather is warm and the bees show signs of distress sprinkle them with water occasionally and all should go well.—R. H. Smith.

**TIDINGS FROM
APIARIES.**

Cellared 29 colonies December 10th no chance to fly since November 10th until yesterday (March 28th). Lost one colony.

T. A. BLACKBURN.
Milford, N. S.

Too early to give any definite report as to how bees have wintered. All in cellar yet but seem normal. Outside wintering where bees were in good shape, reports say are O. K. Have only heard of one bad loss so far—loss in this case 50 out of 100. Next month will tell more to a certainty.

H. G. SIBBALD.
Peel Co.

Bees still in cellar; from what I hear fear losses will be heavy.

J. W. SPARLING,
Durham Co.

So far as I have received reports there seems to be from 25 to 30 per cent of the bees dead that were wintered outside. Those in a good cellar fared better, and the losses will not be more than three to five per cent. Our loss as far as I have seen them at this date will be 3 per cent in the cellar and 10 per cent outside, those outside have consumed nearly all their stores.

R. H. SMITH,
Elgin Co. Ont.

My bees have come through very good, about seven per cent loss: Some have lost nearly all.

JAS. ARMSTRONG,
Cheapside.

The very severe winter through which we have passed (or we are passing) will in all probability leave a sorrowful record for bee-keeper's

throughout the Province. The stock in this district, so far as I have been able to learn, is still in winter quarters, and owing to the fact that there was very very little honey from fall flowers, and a consequent failure in many instances to brood up during the latter months, it is feared that many colonies will be low in working force when placed on their summer stands. This report however, is not very satisfactory and we had better not jump at conclusions until the actual facts have been learned. Winter lingers in the lap of spring and matters may not be quite so bad after all?

M. B. HOLMES,
Leeds Co.

My bees seem allright. I should judge from the appearance of the hives that they have wintered very well. There is 102 colonies in a room 8x16ft.

I cannot say anything about how bees are doing out of doors but here they get drifted over and winter all right. There is an immense amount of snow here yet five and six feet deep on the roads which are almost impassible.

GEORGE WOOD,
Dufferin Co.

Bees are still in their winter quarters. The ground is covered with snow, and the weather raw and cold: I dont expect to set them out again on their summer stands for ten days or two weeks yet. They appear O. K. so far.

W. J. BROWN,
Prescott Co.

The reports I have received show a greater loss than a year ago, ranging all the way from five to fifty per cent. My own yards have come through in the usual condition.

F. J. MILLER,
Middlesex Co.

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