

# ...The Canadian Bee Journal

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WHOLE NO  
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## Ontario Bee-keepers' Association

ANNUAL MEETING

SECOND DAY. (AFTERNOON SESSION)

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

The president in the chair called the Convention to order, and called upon Mr. Creelman, Superintendent Farmers Institutes to address the convention.

Mr. Creelman: Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is an unexpected pleasure for me to be called upon to say a few words to the O. B. A. this afternoon. It has been my pleasure to be connected with the Department of Agriculture and a few days ago in conversation with the Hon. Mr. Dryden and Mr. James they suggested that as I had not been in the habit of attending the O. B. K. whereas it had been my privilege to attend the other Agricultural Associations of the Province, that it would be a good idea if I would come and get acquainted with, as they say, "as good a lot of fellows as there are in the Province of Ontario." I am glad to get acquainted; and probably you will be glad to know the fact that I do not know you and do not know exactly what you are doing except as I have read your

reports and heard from you through the press, I may be able to say some things from an unprejudiced and outside standpoint that would have more weight than if I were in the ring as it were and intimately associated with you.

There never was a time in the history of agriculture in the province



G. C. Creelman, Supt. Farmers' Institutes  
Engraving by favor of Farming World, Toronto.

of Ontario when farmers were so anxious for information as they are to-day. I am sure of that. Last week only in the city of Guelph we had assembled there 20,000 people from the farms of the province of Ontario to look, to listen to addresses and to see the products of the farm in

the shape of live stock. There never was a time from eight o'clock in the morning till late at night when one fourth of the people could be accommodated in the lecture room we had prepared. Therefore you will understand why I say that there never was a time when the people of the farms were thirsting for knowledge along their own lines as they are to-day. That class room was kept constantly filled with people asking questions along the lines of bacon production, better beef, better mutton, better poultry for Canada. Those four topics particularly interested that great crowd of people. Now it seems to me that there is coming to be just as great a demand among the rank and file for a better knowledge in reference to bee culture, as we could have said a few years ago there was in reference to some other things.

Take our poultry industry. You will say all of our farmers keep poultry but they do not all keep bees. That is true, but there is no industry that is independent of the other. Progress in one line makes progress in another. In the poultry industry a few years ago a few men bred fancy poultry for fancy purposes. Feathers were considered to be more valuable from their standpoint than flesh. A chicken that had a certain kind of a ring around its neck or was of a certain color was considered to be worth so much money, whereas if it did not have those special markings it was not worth anything like that. To-day we have come down to a more practical basis, and the chicken that is built like a shorthorn, built to put on flesh, is the chicken which is being looked for in the market and which our breeders are coming to understand and beginning to breed for. As an illustration of that, at the winter fair this year, with which the Ontario Poultry Association is affili-

ated, there was one whole row of coops devoted to what we call the commonsense or ordinary breeds of table fowl, Plymouth Rocks, Whyandottes, Brahamas and some of the others. There was hundreds of them where there used to be only a few in the show ring and so close is the competition that if a man comes in for the 8th or 10th prize he thinks he has done pretty well at that show. People are beginning to see if they can get from 10 to 15 cents a pound for plump fat poultry, well fed and of such a quality that you enjoy eating it, they find that is the kind of industry they want to devote themselves to.

The same thing might be said in reference to bacon and things which a few years ago were despised on the English market. In the old country market a few years ago anything which was named Canadian in the line of pork was thought to be not at all comparable with the Danish or Irish. The Canadians have simply fought their way into that market by putting up a superior quality of stuff. Our men joined together and manufactured a good article and sent their men over with it and placed it on the market and gave it to them in such a way that they were obliged to recognise that Canadians could produce just as good a quality of bacon as anyone else. And conservative as the Britain is, sticking to his old line of eating Danish and Irish bacon, when he got a taste of our pea fed bacon he began to see that Britain might just as well give us the trade and give us the money and today we are sending over thirteen to fourteen millions of dollars of pork product to the English market, whereas a few years ago they were taking as it were only a few hundred dollars worth. The same is true of cheese. The Englishman did not

use half as much cheese as he does now; he depended upon the continent for it or went to the United States. The Canadians said, we can produce just as good a quality of cheese as we can bacon; our farmers are just able to do it. The leaders of agriculture in Ontario said, our farmers are just as intelligent as the farmers in the old country, because they are from the same stock; we have the climate and cheap land and pure water; we can produce just as good a quality of cheese. Will you believe me when I tell you we have seventy percent of the entire English market in cheese to-day. This year over twenty-five million dollars have been spent by the English for cheese produced in the Dominion of Canada and of course mostly in the Province of Ontario. We have got fifteen hundred cheese factories in this Province alone. They are eating it and liking it and saying, we want only So and So's cheese; we want it from Perth, Middlesex, Simcoe, or some of the other counties. They are cabling here for it when they might write across the channel to the Danish and Holland people. That is proof positive that the English market is not so conservative and that those people know a good thing when they see it. So if we can give them a taste of our best honey and can give them not only a taste but get them to order quantities of it there is no possibility of our over doing the honey business in this country. I don't know that I am talking to a class of people that think that that is so, but most of our associations have fallen into the habit of grumbling a bit when there was not always occasion for it. Our fruit men a few years ago said "we must quit planting apple trees for there will be so many apples we won't be able to get ten cents a bushel and said then we will have to feed

our apples to our pigs." They said there is no market. Why? Because Englishmen had not tasted our apples as they have not tasted our turkey. "But we said although we confess there is not one in ten who has ever tasted our apples" I am not speaking of the better class but of the rank and file of those great manufacturing towns "we have got to supply that market." We started them after our apples, got a taste of them, and now what happens? We have one man in Ontario who got an order for one hundred thousand barrels of Canadian apples. Such a thing was unheard of ten years ago.

Why have not apples gone up to be worth \$5.00 a barrel? That is going too far but I may tell you that those who have persistently sprayed and taken care of particular varieties, the varieties that the market demands, have never yet seen the year when they did not get a price for their apples which more than paid. Mr. Adam Harkness of Iroquois stated that they had never sold a barrel of apples this year for less than \$3.50 on the Ottawa market Macintosh Red and Flemish beauty—properly sprayed, no scab on them, and bandaged for the codling moth—and so realizing a big profit. If the very best stuff is produced and the taste is educated, there is no doubt that a market will follow for any of our farm products of Ontario. That being established, and I think you will agree with me that that is true, I want to say I would like to see and the department would like to see the bee-keepers of the province of Ontario spreading this information throughout the province so that the rank and file would get a better knowledge of the science of apiculture. There are too many make a failure of bee-keeping nearly every one of us have started with a colony of bees. By some misfortune or good fortune I started into the bee-

business but I found from reading somebody's book or trying to find out about the theory that some little thing was left out and by the time I wanted to gather in the honey the bees were dead, or when I had the temperature just right in the cellar something else was taking my attention and I thought I could go with my overcoat on or in my shirt sleeves and I could test the temperature, or somebody would come over to our place and say, "You fellows might just as well quit that, you can't raise bees, I have tried it and it is a failure." There is not enough definite information given to individuals through the province of Ontario to reach every one who has a taste in that direction. Maybe it is not your fault. It is easy for any body to get up here, and more especially for a young man like me to get up and tell a lot of gray headed men that they don't know what they are talking about. I have had enough experience to know I don't know anything about it or about the science of apiculture except what I see and hear. But from my short experience I know that unless you put business methods into any line of business you are not going to make a success of it. The other associations in the Province with which I am connected are putting business methods into their association work and just in proportion as they are doing so they are getting returns. If the same practical work which was done at Guelph could be applied to the rank and file of bee-keepers and you could have twenty thousand farmers present and have them listen to your discussions and lecturers what a great benefit it would be. Have your program so arranged that a man would speak right to the point and when he was through he would sit down and the next fellow would not ask a question unless it was a

pertinent one; and the next year have another program arranged along different lines so that your reports which you publish would not be the same. I picked up your reports for this year, last year and the year before and found there was the same lot of material to a large extent in every report. We call that in an agriculture report a certain amount of padding—the same thing done over and over again. If you could have some practical demonstration instead of so much talk about how do this that and the other thing of how much more benefit it would be.

You asked me to talk and I have the privilege now of talking and you have got to listen to me whether you feel like it or not.

I say if you could have here practical demonstration. I never went to a fruit meeting that they did not have a lot of fruit; I came up here and I thought I would see lots of honey and bees. You people who come up here from year to year know all about this sort of thing, what an association of this kind ought to do, if you are only going to have a revival meeting once a year and forget the religion of apiculture the rest of the year, is to make that meeting a great big rousing convention. There ought to be five hundred farmers here to day. This court house ought not to hold the people. At Walkerton last year, we started to work the meeting up just soon as the meeting in Cobourg was over the year before. I went up and around among the farmers and talked the matter over. I had an agent at each of the farmers' institute meetings; I wrote two thousand letters telling the farmers there was going to be a fruit growers convention and if they had any sample or they had done anything particularly good with their neighbors to bring it in. Some fruit growers came to me and said, What

kind of a meeting are we going to have in Walkerton, I am afraid of it; I said, 'Dont be alarmed; I said the meeting is going to be good or bad in proportion to the preliminary work. We selected a room that would hold five hundred but they had to bring chairs into that meeting to put in the aisles. You can do it and you ought to do it and I would like to see the time come when the bee-keepers of the province of Ontario took the same stand along with the other live stock associations so that you would have twenty thousand people to pass through your gates to see what you were doing and to see what was being done. Maybe that is going a little too far. I tell you just as I said when I opened my address, I said that the people were hungering and thirsting for information. We are getting inquiries every day about bees; people want to branch out and we find the younger people are growing up and asking for information concerning the common things that are about them. I dont know anything amongst nature's studies better than to give a child a hive of bees; if the parents, if the older brothers, those of you who are here could take those children and bring them along and get the school teachers interested and offer prizes for the best collection at the fall fairs, raised by the boys, of flowers, fruits and so on, I believe we would have such an awakening in apiculture that the amount of honey produced would exceed the demand and if at the same time we carried along a package of tracts and kept the papers full of it from one meeting to the other and kept talking honey honey in all our agricultural papers a very great interest would be taken and the demand would be increased. You have to keep these things before the people. As it is at present there is so much lack of interest that the

chopping down of a tree or having to feed the pigs will keep them away from the meeting but if they have been thinking of that meeting for eight months or a year ahead you would have a very much greater attendance. I think you men, who are thinking along these lines and using your brains to the very best advantage, are not doing enough; you are doing all this but you do not get a chance to tell the great number of people about it; you are to a large extent wasting time. A great many have heard these things before and they are here for new inspirations and to see if they cannot increase along new lines.

Now I want to know how I can help you. As Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes I have in this vicinity five hundred members within a radius of 20 miles of here. I could have easily enough sent out a circular, co-operating with you, to reach the farmers telling them there was going to be a bee-keepers' convention at Barrie. That may be the duty of your secretary but he may not be in a position to do it. I would say to you get in a closer touch with us in the Department whereby we can do the same for you as for the live stock men, the farmers' institutes, the dairy men and the fruit men. We do not get in close enough touch with you. Maybe it is our fault, maybe it is your fault, but between us we ought to get close enough together to help the bee industry. (Applause.)

I have thought and I have talked it over with a few and therefore, although it is only a thought, I will throw it out here for what it is worth. Could you come in closer touch by affiliating, not in the sense of being absorbed, with the fruit growers? I suppose if we were to take a vote in this meeting we would find that every

one of you is more or less interested in fruit. I thought of it up there at the Walkerton meeting and I was wondering if we had another room which would hold four or five hundred men, where the day could be devoted to fruit and the evening to a combined meeting, whether the fruit men and bee men could work in together and make a great big convention. That might be possible. If that were true, I believe we could get better rates to the meeting, we could get bigger meetings and take advantage of the same amount of advertising for both as we do for one. We know that we could get better newspaper facilities because the press is pretty far spreading so far as these things are concerned and everybody is reached. Maybe in that way the department could assist you to carry out this work a little further.

The Fruit Growers' Association this year took a step in advance. Each director was asked to bring in a written report of what he had done in his district for the fruit industry. It was wonderful how much they got around and found out when they learned they had to bring in a report. I don't know, but maybe each one of your directors has read a report or has given a verbal report as to what he has done for apiculture in his district. Maybe he did or did not but if he didn't I think it would be a good thing to inaugurate something of that kind. We found that some men in the Fruit Growers' Association said they didn't propose to spend all their summer going through the district and there were some instances where a man didn't make very much of a report. I don't know how it came about but somebody else was elected as a director next year who would do that sort of thing and the thing was brought down so that they got a live lot of

men. I don't know anything about your directors but no matter how live you may be unless you systemize your work and have each man devoting his time between the conventions to working up something you can't accomplish very much. How much would you expect to learn of any line of business if you were only going to study two or three days a year? Supposing our school system was such that our children were only allowed one week in each year to go to school, we wouldn't expect them to get very much education. It is the same in your business; just as much brains are required to produce good honey as any other line of business.

How can we systematize it? You say "all our directors will want a salary." That is not the idea at all. In our Fruit Growers' Association the men do not get any salary; they take pride in being the man selected from four or five counties who is going to read the report. There is enough pride in the twelve districts in the province of Ontario among the young men and among the older men to select somebody who will do that sort of thing and work for the Association. The commission merchant can say, or the man that is handling produce can say, or the man in the Old Country who wants to buy can say, "I have read the beekeepers' report and have found they are alive, I see two hundred names of men I can write to for reliable information on honey and we can depend on getting so many carloads from Canada." Never mind whether it is sixty or sixty-three pound tins or in a barrel or case, but where can we get good honey and large quantities and will they write to me and have they facilities or have they a secretary who has facilities for doing this sort of thing; are they big

enough; are they paying him enough; have they got the right men in the directorate? All these things will rectify themselves if you will have a system of doing things in a business-like way.

If there is any way by which the Department of Agriculture can help you to get better methods of working or help you to work in with the other associations so that you may get some of the glory they are now getting (because they seem to have started in the right direction), we shall only be too glad. I thank you for allowing me to take up so much of your valuable time. (Applause.)

The President: I am sure you are all pleased with the address of Mr. Creelman. I might say we have made some endeavors to increase our membership and interest the public. During the present year we have sent our 7,000 circulars to bee-keepers throughout the province of Ontario and we had hoped our membership would be largely increased, but unfortunately it did not seem to produce very much of a result. I was very anxious at this convention to have a practical demonstration of the various articles used in the production of honey; it would be an object lesson. We sent out an invitation to all the supply men and dealers and all those who had anything in that line to bring here for a discussion of the matter and see the various operations performed. Unfortunately, there was no response to that. There was one very good suggestion and that is that after the date fixed of the next convention we should let the department know and they will send out circulars in that particular locality of that meeting. I have no doubt that alone would bring a large increase of numbers to our convention and I am satisfied with the assistance of the department

we will get a little more life into the Association, although we are not by any means dead, we are still able to sting.

Mr. Fixter: There was another matter Mr. Creelman touched on and that was the market.

Mr. Creelman: What I meant to say when I came to the question of markets was that there would be a market for our honey just as we created a demand for it. I don't know anything about the prices of the honey or the markets in that way. What I meant to say was that if we can start this campaign so that we can get everybody talking about bees, keep our papers and journals full of it, keep the windows of our best stores filled and make a direct effort to get our honey in to take the place of the adulterated jams and marmalades and that sort of thing, and get everybody to eat honey, the markets will look after themselves. That is all I meant.

Mr. Fixter: How are the Fruit-Growers' Associations amalgamated with your department?

Mr. Creelman: It is not a matter of amalgamation at all; it is a question, simply they thought last year at Cobourg they were not getting as much out of the work and the department were not giving as large a grant of money as they should and they thought if they could come in closer touch with us they could do something better. They asked me to go down to the Fruit Growers' Association and tell them something about how we were doing with our Institute work and industry work. I gave them a talk and then they requested the Minister of Agriculture to let me act as their secretary. The minister said if you want Mr. Creelman's time to devote to your work we will give you a small part of his time and we will employ a first-class

clerk and he will get up your annual work and send out your circulars and see the thing is boomed from beginning to end. And so Mr. Creelman was so instructed and he had to obey. I waded into the Fruit Growers' Association and as soon as we began to do something we went back to the government and said we want some money and the department said, we are willing to give it to you. As long as they apparently were not doing anything, when they asked for more money, the department would say what are you doing with the five hundred or thousand dollars you got? Well, we are doing just like we always did. What do you want any more for? Well, we are going to do more. Mr. Dryden's policy is, don't tell me what you are going to do, go and do it, even if you run in debt, and I will help you out. Go ahead, do what you think ought to be done in this Association and let us see if you can carry out what you are doing. And now the question is how much we will take and how much we will get. We have held three hundred orchard meetings this year right out in the orchard; started early in the spring with pruning and spraying fruit and so on; had practical men out there and said, Now let us see you do these things, and the farmers went around with the instructors from one orchard to the other. If you do that in the Bee-Keepers' Association I believe you can come down to the department and get anything you want but you can't until you start.

I don't know why the bee-keepers should not come along and take a part without in the slightest extent minimizing themselves. It seems to me you would get as much glory as there was going, and at the same time get the benefit of the other organization. This may not be practical

for this assembly, it is for you gentlemen to decide. Mr. Dryden will never coerce any association into taking progressive measures. He tries as far as possible to express his view to the people and then if they like to fall into line the department is willing to give all the assistance it can but it must come from you gentlemen direct. (Applause.)

### Do We Need a Honey Exchange?

By Morley Pettit in The Farmers' Advocate.

So many good ideas have been advanced of late with reference to co-operation and organization of honey-producers, that one is at a loss to know just what to say on the subject. The time seems to be ripe to do something towards the better marketing of our product, and it will not be out of order to consider carefully the conditions with which we have to deal.

In the first place, while it is growing rapidly, the industry is still in its infancy, and, although following the tendency of the age toward specialization, it is by many conducted as a side issue; consequently, the bees and honey do not receive their proper share of attention. If the six or eight hives happen to produce more than enough for family use, the balance is apt to be looked upon as so much clear gain, and turned over to the grocer at his own price. The latter, having bought at a low figure, can accommodate his customers by selling cheap. In other words, the small producer thoughtlessly sets the retail price low at the beginning of the season. He does not lose much on

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few hundred pounds, but the large producer, who must to a certain extent follow his lead, loses considerably in his thousands and tons.

How is the producer to know how or where to sell to the best advantage? He may have a large average yield, and conclude that honey is very plentiful, while, perhaps, a few miles away there is little or none. This is often the case. He may have heard that Toronto, Winnipeg or some other place is a good market for his surplus. Others have heard the same thing, consequently certain centers are crowded with honey, while outlying points, perhaps nearer the producer, are experiencing a shortage. How is this to be avoided? These and other similar problems can be solved by the formation of a properly organized and properly conducted exchange, embodying the co-operation of the thousand, and, one honey producers throughout the land.

#### WHAT A HONEY EXCHANGE COULD DO.

A well-organized and properly-conducted honey exchange could collect and distribute information for the benefit of its members, the honey producers. Information could be collected from the members, and a monthly or fortnightly bulletin published for their especial benefit showing the number of hives and condition of bees, also the amount of both new and old honey in sight in all parts of Ontario and adjoining provinces at that date, of the current and two preceding years. These reports should also show how much honey has been consumed in each section of the country in former years and whether the supply this year meets the demand. If a shortage exist, just enough and not too much can be shipped in from the nearest place having a surplus. In case of surplus, perhaps by judicious advertising, the demand can be increased to

meet the supply. In any case no overcrowding of the market should be allowed. Better to export the surplus at a much lower figure and distribute the small loss over the members of the exchange, in proportion to their honey crop, than allow it to remian and demoralize the whole market.

A matter which is at present sadly neglected is the advertising of honey. The very heavens resound with the names of food fads and medicines, while the most pleasant and nutritious of natural sweets is comparatively unknown in our Canadian homes. The reason is not far to seek. "Honey is honey," and under existing conditions if Smith advertised he would be increasing the sale of Brown's honey almost as much as his own. The only way out of it is for Smith, Brown, et al, to form a honey exchange and advertise the honey of the exchange. They would then agree upon a remunerative price, which would not become exorbitant, by the way, on account of the direct competition of fruit, syrups, and foreign honey. They would advertise extensively until "honey" would become a household word, learned along with "papa" and "mamma" by the lisping child.

Another matter which can only be mentioned here, is that of proper grading of honey and putting it up in the best shape for the market. The agents of the exchange could see that the honey of the members is properly graded and packed, and each package should be sealed with the seal of the exchange, not to be opened again except by the consumer. This seal would come to be sought after by buyers.

The thoughtful reader will be able to work out and add to these few suggestions until he sees the manifold advantages of a well-organized and properly-conducted honey exchange.

THE  
CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

Devoted to the Interests of Bee-Keepers,

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**BRANTFORD - CANADA.**

Editor, W. J. Craig.

JULY, 1903.

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

We sympathise with friend J. L. Byer of Markham and family in their sorrow for the loss of their mother who passed away recently after a period of much suffering which she bore with Christian patience and resignation.

The California National Honey Producers Association issue a statement in the Rocky Mountain Bee Journal regarding the handling and marketing of the product of its members. It says; "Everything is offered to the members as a privilege that they can secure if they wish, and they are not under any obligation to deal with the Association unless they choose. Thus the Association offers to its membership all the advantages that it is able to secure at actual cost and asks in return that the members pay simply for what they get, and stand their proportioned amount of expense (as they share in all profits) this and a promise to not

sell for less than the Association prices, is, we think, not too much to ask of any man for what we can do in return."

This rather supports our idea regarding the Ontario Honey Exchange in our last issue.

The white honey harvest is well nigh over and so far as we have been able to ascertain the crop will be a good average. Quebec and Eastern Ontario suffered for lack of rain in the early part of the season, and, as a result, only a light crop has been secured. Western and Southern Ontario have had a good yield from clover. Basswood is doing fairly well at this date of writing, although the unsettled weather is rather against the bees working on it to the best advantage. We have not yet heard from the Western and Maritime Provinces. The quality of the honey this season is excellent, both in color and body. Many have mentioned the fact of the thickness making it unusually difficult to extract.

Some have feared a lowering of prices but we see no necessity for this if an effort is made on the part of the larger producers to distribute the product. Some have already sold at figures bordering on last year's prices. The general advance in other things should certainly have an influence in at least maintaining prices. Local markets are usually crowded by small producers at this season and the tendency is depressing. It is generally better to hold a little later.

A somewhat startling announcement was made a few months ago by a European Scientist, Dr. Lambotte, of the University of Liege, Belgium, that bacillus alvei, the microbe of foul brood, is identical with bacillus mesentericus vulgaris, one of the most common bacilli, and found in nearly all vegetable matter. The most advanced scientists who have so far, prior to Dr. Lambotte, experimented have established the fact that bacillus alvei is a distinct germ.

The Lambotte theory is rather an alarming one if true; according to it foul brood may break out at any time under certain conditions in a hitherto healthy colony or apiary as the spores of the disease are always present.

Mr. T. W. Cowan, F. L. S., Senior Editor of the British Bee Journal, in an editorial article on the subject refutes Dr. Lambotte's conclusions. He says of "Bacillus mesentericus" that "it is found almost everywhere, and were it the cause of foul brood we should also hear of this disease wherever bees were kept, but there are many districts where foul brood has not been known to exist, and in every case of an outbreak where investigation has been made, it was found that it had existed there before or had been by some means introduced."

"Without going more deeply into the matter it need only be said that we cannot accept Dr. Lambotte's explanation, knowing as we do how rapidly foul brood spreads even when hives are in best condition. On the

other hand we also know that when certain means are employed this disease can be got rid of, so that with the present knowledge available we need only follow out the practices usually advocated in order to obtain the best results."

The British Bee Journal has translated from a Belgium paper a series of articles on foul brood by Prof. Harrison of the Ontario Agricultural College. These the editor speaks of as "a valuable contribution to the permanent and authoritative literature dealing with the question of foul brood among bees." They occupy several issues of the British Bee Journal.

## Notes by the Way

By G. A. DEADMAN.

A HANDY KNIFE—SOMETHING BETTER THAN GLOVES, ETC.

Every now and then we read about handy tools for apiary use, something which one who has accustomed himself to think indisparible while others knowing nothing about them go along probably using something else which to them seems as good. Well, I have been using a combination pocket knife, which, had I not seen among a traveller's samples I suppose I would have never known anything about them as they are seldom stocked in small places. The length of this knife when folded is about three inches so that it is even smaller than many in use and not therefore cumbersome to carry, for I am safe in saying that

when once possessing one you will want it all the year round, and maybe one for every change of clothing. Apart from bee-work it is a knife that can be relied on, provided you get these made by H. Boker and Co., and the number is 920. You can almost put a razor edge on these knives and so if for no other reason I always want one. I wonder almost how I did so long without one for it is only recently I have found their true value. You will find it specially valuable if you use a closed end in Hoffman self spacing frame, but no matter if you do not you will find nothing better or even to equal for prying any kind a part or for lifting one out without disturbing the rest. The knife has one small and one large blade. The small is O. K. for cutting out queen cells that you may desire to save. The part though that is specially valuable to bee-keepers is a curved arrangement which is very pointed and strong, with this you can loosen frames in a jiffy and for catching hold of things that one cannot well do with the fingers it has no equal. I do not know how much prying it will stand, but a good deal. The blades however, you must be more careful with as they are necessarily hard and therefore, easily broken, but no easier than any other good knife. There are many things besides taking out frames that it can be used for such as lifting off honey brands or anything else that sticks. I frequently use it for taking off supers as you can get a grip with it that one cannot without. In taking out frames you need never take hold of them with your fingers until well out as you can by inserting this hook arrangement hold them upon it alone. It is way ahead of anything I have yet tried. Most tools have a tendency to push away when prying. This however, lifts a frame up without hardly separating or

pushing the others away. Dealers satisfied with a small margin of profit could supply for 75 cents each. But five times that would not buy mine if I could not get another. I did not mention about a cork screw attachment, but as apiary work is considered very healthy and not many I hope indulge in bottled goods that require this to pull the cork, we will place no value on it. If you are a smoker (which I hope not) there is a small hole in the handle in which to insert and remove the end of a cigar, but a better use for this is to tie it to your person if you are liable to forget where you had it last, I have a steel watch chain attached to one I have. Not quite so handy with this but not so easily lost. I never go into the apiary without it. This is saying a good deal but I cannot praise it too highly.

#### SOMETHING BETTER THAN GLOVES.

I suspect that there are few bee-keepers comparatively who use any covering for the hands when handling bees. I have scorned to use gloves and until to-day have never had any protection except a veil for the face. Recently, however, when manipulating some cross colonies or when the weather was unfavorable have been badly stung on the wrists and hands, but especially the former. I have been puzzling my brains to find a preventative for this. Gloves have their objections. Too many, I am afraid for most of us, so was compelled to look elsewhere. I found a substitute in the well known harvest mits. The kind with long cuffs not only covering the wrists but protecting the sleeve. These mits have a place for the thumb and first finger separately, I cut these off about half way also the end of the mit proper which leaves the other three fingers free. If desired, by a little stitching you can have each finger encased. The ends are—

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course, separated and free to handle anything. They not only afford protection from the bees but protect the linen and also the hands from the sun.

This is a boon to those who like to keep these members as presentable as possible. It seems queer that after keeping bees for twenty years without these I should place such value on them, so much so I never expect to do without them again. If your help objects to bee stings a pair of these might prevent him or her from getting discouraged. I retained good help this season by supplying mits. There is quite a difference in these as found in the market. I have been fortunate in getting some good ones. I am sorry I cannot speak from experience of rubber gloves, possibly they may have less objections than I think. I like the fingers uncovered.

Comment is made in last issue of C. B. J. regarding the use of disinfected foul brood combs for honey. Let us discourage such a practice. I wonder sometimes what becomes of honey taken from colonies having foul brood I want none of it. In my travels I was told of one party that had some stored in his grainery and the bees got access to it. McEvoy was called again but fortunately no bee that got a taste of it escaped; they got in but could not get out. The bee-keeper then buried the whole business. However as much as I like honey I have no use for this kind.

G. A. Deadman.

The art of saying appropriate words in a kindly way is one that never goes out of fashion, never ceases to please and is within the reach of the humblest.—F. W. Faber.

## News From The Districts

### NO. 1

Since my last report copious rains have fallen but a little too late for a good clover flow, however, it is coming in fast now and a light crop may be secured. Those favored with basswood say if weather continues favorable a good flow may be expected from that source,

W. J. Brown.

Prescott Co., July 9th,

### NO. 3.

The long continued drought was only broken in this district on the 11th of June and since that time the clover has come on fairly well and there will probably be about half a crop from that source. The basswood is now opening and certainly promises very well if weather continues favorable.

The lateness of swarming in this district and the severity and persistence of "the Fever" will of course, militate against securing best results in honey crop. We sincerely hope that prospects are brighter in the other districts throughout the provinces

M. B. Holmes.

Leeds Co. Ont. July 15th,

### NO. 5.

The flow from clover has been good and is still coming in; basswood with us does not count.

J. W. Sparling.

Durham Co., July 9.

NO. 6.

Clover season is about over and owing to so much bad weather has not come up to expectations. Extracting is not finished but would estimate 50 or 60 lbs per colony as the yield. Basswood is opening and looks good but too scarce now to count much on.

H. G. Sibbald.

Peel Co., July 10th.

NO. 7.

The situation here has changed very much for the better since last report: the rains have come in the nick of time and the prospect is for a fair honey flow from clover. There is very little basswood in this section. Swarming has been excessive.

J. F. Switzer.

Dufferin Co., July 9th.

NO. 8.

Your letter received asking for report, would say that we are having a good flow from clover and it will last for some time yet. Basswood is just opening and promises good. The weather is ideal here now for honey, and if it continues we should have a record breaker from basswood. Swarming has not been excessive.

James Armstrong.

Haldimand Co. July 13th.

NO. 9

We have had a very good flow from clover. Basswood is now in bloom and promises well. We have a wet spell but hope it turns out nice.

John Newton.

Oxford Co. July 14th.

No. 9.

We have had a good average crop of clover honey, the quality is extra good, will get a little clover for ten days yet. Basswood in full bloom bees working nicely on it yesterday and today, I do not expect a big flow, trees are to scarce.

Martin Emigh.

Oxford Co. July 15.

NO. 9.

The flow is good here just now and basswood is just opening.

R. H. Smith.

Elgin Co. July 8th.

NO. 10.

A great change has come since last report honey has been coming in very freely, better than I ever knew it before. Prospects for a large crop, good. Too soon to speak positively however.

G. A. Deadman.

Huron Co. July 3th.

NO. 11.

The honey flow has been good since July 1st. but weather during June was very unfavorable for honey gathering. Basswood is about over here and has yielded very little but has helped to keep busy. Our yield will be no larger than last year.

W. A. Chrysler.

Kent Co. July 10th.

NO. 12.

Yours of the 7th. to hand and in reply would say we are having a very good flow from clover. Basswood is nearly all cut down around here. The weather is hot and lots of swarms.

Samuel Wood

Simcoe Co. July 9th.

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## Replacing Queens.

Conversations with Doolittle in Gleanings  
in Bee Culture.

"Say, Mr. Doolittle, how long do queens live?"

"What led you to ask me that question, Mr. Brown?"

"We are told in the bee papers that, to reap the best results in honey, queens over two years old should not be allowed as mothers of colonies. I suppose from this that the writers think that from two to three years is the average life of a queen. What is your experience in this matter?"

"My best queens live to four, five, and, in some instances, six years old; but the average life of queens is about three and a half years. The length of a queen's life, other things being equal, depends upon the tax that is put upon her egg-laying powers, and under our modern management queens do not average so long-lived as they did in the days of box hives?"

"Would you think it best to change all queens that were three years old? I have some such that were just as good layers as ever last fall, and came through in my strongest colonies, and I was wondering whether I ought to change them this summer. What do you think?"

"I do not think that the question of age should be considered in the matter of changing queens, except so far as it may be taken as a sort of rule to judge of when they will be apt to fail. I would not replace a queen so long as she lays up to her full average, especially at this time of the year for during the month of June any queen that has even less than the average value can supply eggs which will be turned out into bees at the right time for the honey harvest ;

while if a general change is made, many colonies are likely to lose thousands of eggs at best, and, not only this, the young queen is often very liable to bring a lot of workers on the stage of action in time to become consumers rather than producers."

"Would it have been better to change in early spring?"

"No. A change at that time would have been worse yet, as it would have resulted in a loss of bees at just the time when each bee is of the greatest value to push forward the rearing of others for the honey harvest."

"When would you change queens then?"

"If queens must be changed I would advise waiting till the harvest of white honey is over, for the loss of eggs usually sustained through a change of queens will then be little or no loss, as they are generally hatched into larvæ at a time when said larvæ have to be fed out of honey stored in the hive, while the mature bees generally consume more of the stores already laid aside than they add to them."

"What is your opinion in this matter?"

"With one exception, I pay very little attention to the matter of changing queens, where the colonies are worked for honey instead of queen-rearing, for I find that nineteen colonies out of twenty will supersede their own queens as soon as they need changing; therefore, with the one exception it is a waste of time for me to be worrying about this matter, keeping track of the ages of all queens, etc., when the bees will look after the matter at the proper time."

"Then you think I better not undertake these things?"

"That would be my idea. The bees will attend to the changing, and

make fewer mistakes than you are likely to make, no matter how careful and wise you may be. If you think I am wrong in this matter, set apart a certain number of colonies to try each way, and a term of years will tell you which will pay you better."

"You spoke of an exception in this matter. What did you mean by that?"

"I find that more queens are superseded during the month of August than at any other time of the year; and so by a little forethought, and a little work, I fix it so that the bees will attend to this matter, if the queen is failing, and at the same time accept queens from my very best stock to do it with, instead of supplanting their queen with inferior stock, as they would do if left to themselves providing their mother was not of the best breed obtainable."

"How can you accomplish such a thing as that?"

"It is very simple. Just before the close of the white-honey harvest, at a time when the bees will rear as good queens as at any time during the season, I start queen-cells in proportion to the number I consider I wish, starting them from brood from the queen which has given me the best results during the past; and if I have chosen the right time these cells will be 'ripe' at just the time the bees will be most likely to start cells for supersedure."

"How do you know the colonies which are starting supersedure cell?"

"I do not know this, nor do I think it worth the trouble to find out. I judge from outside appearances, and the amount of white honey stored, which colonies may be liable to supersede their queens, and those I would desire to have do so; and when I have decided this matter, I give one of these ripe cells to each of such colonies."

"How do you give these ripe cells?"

"Always by putting them in queen cell protectors. You know what they are?"

Yes, but that was not what I meant. Tell me how you put them in the hive.

"That part is very simple. Having the ripe cells all in cell protectors, I go to the hives designed for them; and if the bees are still in the sections, I put one of these protected cells in any section where I think the bees will be likely to care for it till the queen emerges. If no sections are on, or the bees have left the sections, then I lift the cover, spread the frames a little, sufficient to allow the cell protector to go just below the top-bar of the frames, when the frames are brought back in place again, which crowds the protector into the comb so that it is held in place as in a vise."

"Any certain place between the frames where you put them?"

"I have had the best results where the cells were placed the furthest away from the the brood, consistent with the bees' caring for them, which is generally near the back upper corners where the most sealed honey is allowed."

"What about the protector? Do you take that out as soon as the young queen has come out?"

"No. The simplicity of this matter is the little work required in accordance with the results obtained. I pay no attention further than what I have told you, not opening the brood-chamber to the hive again till the next season arrives, when the cage is found and taken out, usually when clipping the queen's wings during fruit-bloom."

"Oh! I begin to see. You can tell the number you succeed with by the cage between the combs, and the queens not having their wings clipped?"

"Exactly."



"About what proportion do you find with unclipped wings?"

"That depends somewhat on years. Some years the bees do not allow their queens to rear as much brood as others, and in cases of the maximum amount of brood not being reared, not so many are accepted. But generally I find that from one-half to two-thirds of these cells are accepted and a young queen from my best mother is reigning the next spring in place of the old one of the summer before."

"And in this way your stock is growing better with each year?"

"Exactly. And herein a gain is made also. Try it next August, and see if you are not pleased with the idea."—Conversation with Doolittle in *Gleanings in Bee Culture*.

**Foul Brood--Its Cause and Cure**

A member—Is comb foundation made from diseased comb safe to use?

Mr. France—yes, sir. Three years ago I experimented with 82 colonies in 15 of the best apiaries I could find in the State of Wisconsin, where they had never seen foul brood. They took a good deal of coaxing to get me go into their apiaries, but with the confidence that I had gained with my brother and sister bee-keepers, he said, 'Go ahead.' I told him if there was a sign of disease I would say him well for it. To this day they wish they had tried more of it, because those colonies experimented were the best they had.

A Member—Would you recommend this for other people also?

Mr. France—I would in this way : that no one need be afraid of getting

disease through comb foundation. Any process which will make comb foundation will kill the germs of disease in wax. I recommend the use of the foundation regardless of where it comes from.

A Member—Suppose you had diseased combs, would you melt them and use the wax for foundation?

Mr. France—Most certainly, I would.

A Member—Would you not destroy the diseased combs?

Mr. France—No. About a year ago, in a certain apiary where there were 108 good, strong colonies of bees, I found disease in four of them, and he said he would do it. I then went on, and came back a year afterwards, and there were no live bees left, but there were 2400 combs in the cellar, all diseased. Now Mr. France, this is pretty hard; I am going to put a match under the whole thing and burn it up," he said. I told him not to get discouraged with that, because that beeswax, if nothing else, is worth saving; and I had him send for one of those German wax-presses to test its merits, and rather than burn it up I ran 2000 combs through that wax-press the first day, and the balance the next day, and shipped the wax to one of our Wisconsin comb foundation men and he sent me a check for—well, for the wax, and said, "I want more."

Mr. France—If you have not a good press you would better get a good wax-press.

A Member—What is a good one?

Mr. France—The German wax-press. That is the only one I know of that is worth recommending at the present time, because you can do so much in such a short time with it. I have something at home that does about as well, that is, a large boiler that I had made. It holds about three barrels; put it down on

a large stove and I can do about as well with it as a German press, but I cannot take it with me, and this other I take free of charge, checking it as my baggage, and have melted combs here and there, and I can do it up in a short time.

A Member—How many pounds of wax do you get out of 100 brood-frames?

Mr. France—It depends altogether on the age of those combs. One beauty of this wax-press is that you can get more wax in proportion than you can with any other. I think on an average through our State, that we get about three or four pounds of wax to a set of 8 or 10 combs.

Dr. Miller—Mr. France, you are in a position to learn about that. I wish you would give close attention to that matter, and perhaps give us the exact figures as to the amount I formerly had the impression that there was wax put there in the first place, and never any addition to that wax, but I find that across the ocean, by a careful examination, they tell us that there is a layer of cocoon then a fresh layer of wax, then more cocoon, then more wax. I have lived a good many years thinking that there was never any wax added. I wish you would give me the exact figures. Take some very old comb and find out the percent of wax you get from that when you have squeezed it all out; then take some newer comb, not quite so old, and give us the proportion of that.

Mr. France—I have planned to try that about the first of April. I have about 500 old black combs that I am holding for that purpose. There are some improvements to be made on the German press.

Mr. Moore—Will you tell us what is necessary to make the hives themselves safe to use again?

Mr. France—In about nine-tenths

of the cases nothing; in the other tenth, if there has been any honey dropped from the diseased combs in there, or there are combs on the side of the hive, scrape them off clean. I have boiled only three lots of hives in the State of Wisconsin in the last six years. The disease would not get into the honey until it had gotten into the diseased cells.

A Member—Is it not in the bread?

Mr. France—Not unless the bread has been put in the cell. I do not believe the bees carry disease with them from a hive back to the flowers. When they go back from the flowers they have a new lot; that is the reason why we want to try this during the honey flow.

A Member—If the honey from that comb which contains foul brood was put under the microscope would it indicate foul brood so that you could observe it?

Mr. France—I think it would, although the chances are it may have become dried down so that at this stage of the season it would be so hard it would take some little time, heat and moisture to show it as plainly as in June. If you have a good glass you will see that those little germs of foul brood are rod-like in shape. They are longer in proportion to their thickness, and seem to have power similar to that of a fishworm. They become large, break off and spread out. You need a very powerful glass to detect the germs of foul brood. I have to use our State glass in the Normal School.

A Member—I would like to ask the outside of the combs of the hive that is diseased that contain nothing but honey, never having brood in them, would take the disease.

Mr. France I think not, but you would take great chances.

A Member—Is there any danger

of using the tools that have been used in the handling of these bees?

Mr. France—If they have in any way become soiled or stained by the honey from the diseased hive, yes.

A Member—Can you cure a diseased hive of bees in the fall?

Mr. France—If we have plenty of sealed honey in healthy combs.

A Member—Would you starve the bees?

Mr. France—I do not think it would be necessary at this time of the year.

A Member—What harm would there be if you made public the names of the places and owners of diseased apiaries? Have not the bee-keepers the right to know who has it, and where it is?

Mr. France—I think you ought to know if your bees have it. Suppose some one whose bees have foul brood is a breeder of bees, and I should say in my annual report A, B and C have foul brood, would you buy bees of them? Practically I would have "cut their throat."

A Member—Would it be right for a breeder to sell such bees?

Mr. France—No, sir; and if you had legislation in the State you would stop him from doing such business.

A Member—How would you stop him if nobody knows it?

Mr. France—By inspectors going through the yards and finding it out. Some bee-keepers have asked me to go to them and give them a certificate for or against. But if you get a queen from any one abroad and you are not certain, if you will take the queen out of the cage she comes in and put her in a clean, healthy cage, I do not think there is one chance in a thousand in getting a disease. I do not think the queen herself is ever diseased enough to transmit it to a colony. It is in the food in the cage.

One of our city girls who was at the Normal School, thought that she would make a present of a box of comb honey to her mother. She sent the little box by mail; it came from the west in the mail-bag until it arrived at Madison. There it was transferred to the Northwestern train which came to my city, and right in Madison, in making up the mails, I received some queen-bees from a distance that I had paid a good price for. My queen-cages were thrown in the same mail-bag with the box of honey, and the surface of them was covered with honey. The postmaster said to me, "I want to show you something. Here are a whole lot of pictures and letters in the mail all botched up with honey. I am going to hold you for damages." I never before got queen-cages with the surface of the cages covered with honey. I went up and took the queens out and put them into clean cages, and put the other cages into the stove. I went down next day and paid the bill, and the postmaster said, "What do you think I found stuck in the bottom of that mail-bag? A box of honey!" Being a trappers son, I got onto the back-track right away. I went to where the letter was addressed, and asked, "Did you get a box of honey?" She replied, "I got a letter from Annie, saying that she had sent me a box." "Where is Annie?" "Over in Minnesota." "What town is she in?" I finally got her address, and found from whom she bought the honey, and his bees had foul brood, so I took no chance on introducing the queens. There was a chance of my healthy queen-bees becoming diseased through that honey put in the mail-bag.

Dr. Miller—It is suggested here that it is barely possible that some one

might misunderstand you. You have emphasized very strongly the danger of using an old cage, but you have said nothing about the bees. Would you be careful to transfer the bees with the queen?

Mr. France—It has been practiced, but those bees have fulfilled their mission for which they were sent, being good escorts of the queen. They have safely delivered their queen, and there is a great deal of danger lying in the honey-sacs of those bees, and they might as well be put into the stove with the old cage.

A Member—Is it necessary to burn anything to cure foul brood?

Mr. France—No, but it is often desirable economy.

A Member—Is there any danger of buying or using combs from strangers?

Mr. France—There have been many cases in Wisconsin where that was the means of contracting disease.

A Member—Is there any danger of buying second hand honey-cans, barrels, or other packages, that have once had honey in them?

Mr. France—Yes, and I want to say that second hand goods of any kind are poor things to store honey in.

A Member—Supposing the honey-comb is filled with honey, and it has had disease in it, will those disease-germs propagate themselves in the honey?

Mr. France—No, not until that honey has been transferred in the comb.

A Member—Will pickled brood or black brood produce foul brood?

Mr. France—I have never known it to do so. They are distinct and separate germs. Small-pox will not produce diphtheria or scarlet fever.

Mr. Moore—What causes foul brood in the beginning?

Mr. France—I know of a case where we have no positive proof of its being contagious. As to the real cause of what produced it I am unable to say, because in almost every case under my own observation I could trace it back to something else. I know this much, foul brood was brought here from Europe, and here from one state to another until it is a wonder to me now there is any place that is not occupied with the disease.

A Member—Is there any authentication of foul brood coming from anything-but foul brood?

Mr. France—Not that I know of, and yet I say there must be a cause?

Dr. Miller—I think it is an old theory. I certainly have been one who has held to it very strenuously that without the microbe there could be no foul brood. Have you at any time understood that without the microbe there will be no foul brood?

Mr. France—No sir.

Dr. Miller—I have held that until the last week or so. I was very much surprised to find in one of the Belgian journals that a very careful examination was made by Dr. Lambotte, who is, as I understand it, a very able bacteriologist. He went to work and examined it, and I confess to you it is very hard for me to believe there is any truth in it, and yet I believe the investigations were thoroughly made. He found that the *Bacillus alvei* was nothing more nor less than another microbe. The first thing he noticed was its great similarity to another rather commonly known microbe, and then he made very careful tests and decided it was exactly the same thing; that under certain circumstances this microbe, the *bacillus vulgaris mesentericus*, would have such changes made in it as to produce foul brood; and that it was the same bacillus under a little different condition. My own impression

is that this is correct, although I don't like to believe that foul brood is in a healthy colony.

A Member—Is foul brood animal or vegetable life?

Mr. France—As far as we can decide that, we would call it vegetable in its nature, yet it has a power of motion similar to that of a worm, and in that way would much resemble life; but at the same time it is generally understood by scientists to be of vegetable matter.

Mr. France—I want you all to examine these samples of foul brood, and I want to get daylight for your inspection. Please handle these combs carefully, because you may gather the germs of disease; and when you look at them take the comb down to look into the bottom of the cell. That is the one thing I am trying to emphasize, and what we are looking for. Take it at an angle until the light strikes it just a little over the front end, when you will see that little black scale turned up in that way.

A Member—That will be to the front of the cell, won't it?

Mr. France—Yes, nearly to the front side.—From report of Chicago and North Western Convention in the American Bee Journal.

**National Convention Notice**

The 34th Annual Convention of the National Bee Keepers' Association will be held in Los Angeles, Calif., on Aug. 19, and 20, 1903, in Blanchard's Hall, 235 S. Broadway. The headquarters of the Association during the convention

will be at the Natick House, corner of First and Main Streets.

It is expected that this will be the largest and best convention ever held by the bee-keepers of America. Every one interested in the production of honey should be present, if at all possible. Besides the question-box, which will be one of the special features of the program the following subjects will be discussed in papers by the prominent bee-keepers mentioned. Afterward a free and full discussion will be had by all in attendance who wish to participate. The subjects and men to introduce them are as follows: "Honey Exchanges and Co-operation among Bee-Keepers" by Prof A. J. Cook, Claremont, Calif.

"How to Make Money Producing Extracted Honey," by J. F. McIntyre, Sespe, Calif. Response by E. S. Lovesy Salt Lake City, Utah.

"The Production and Sale of Chunk Honey," by Homer H. Hyde, Floresville, Texas. Response by C. P. Dadant, Hamilton, Ill.

"The Eradication of Foul Brood," by N. E. France, Platteville, Wis.

"Reminiscences of Bee-Keeping and Bee-keepers in the Early Days," by A. I. Root.

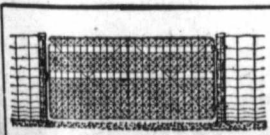
There will be reports by the officers, which include Pres. Hutchinson, General Manager France, and Secretary York.

The California bee-keepers are planning to give all in attendance one of the grandest receptions imaginable on the first evening, Tuesday, Aug. 18. No one will want to miss this feature of the convention.

It is an opportunity of a lifetime to take the trip to California, as all convention members can avail themselves of the low railroad rates as it comes at the time of the Grand Army meeting in San Francisco, and the same rates apply to Los Angeles.

For further information or particulars that may be desired, address the Secretary, 144 E. Erie St., Chicago, Ill.

GEORGE W. YORK, Sec.  
W. Z. HUTCHINSON, Pres.



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