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THE



CANADIAN

Honey Producer.

Its Reading Columns for the advancement of Honey Producers exclusively.

Vol. 2.

BRANTFORD, MAY, 1888.

No. 3.

The Canadian Honey Producer,

PUBLISHED BY
E. L. GOOLD & Co.,
BRANTFORD, - - - - ONTARIO.

Published Monthly, 40 cents per year.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Subscription price of the Canadian Honey Producer is 40 cents a year. 3 subscriptions at one time, \$1.00 to one or more addresses.

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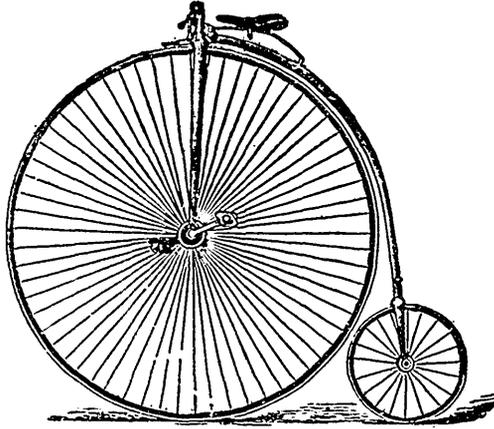
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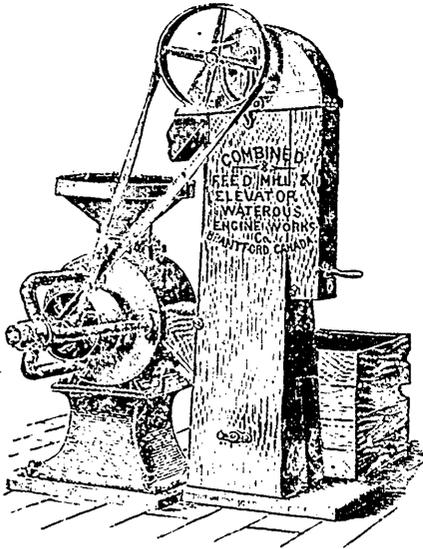
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April, 29th, 1888.

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E. H. COOK, Andover, Toll Co., Conn.

THE CANADIAN
HONEY PRODUCER.

Vol. 2. April, 1888. No. 3.

The Thirteenth Annual Report of the Ontario Agricultural College is to hand. This institution is gaining in popularity and efficiency year by year, and it would be well for any farmer's son to take a course at the college.—The young practical farmer can derive more benefit from a course there than the city youth, and the large attendance of the former must be gratifying to the Ontario Government and those interested in the College. On page 18 the economical and hard working President of the College in his report to the Commissioner of Agriculture gives a list of necessary expenditures in buildings to equip them completely for years to come. The President surely has omitted a small and inexpensive building for the apiarian department. When almost every land which makes any pretensions to the advancement of agriculture is teaching apiculture in schools, establishing experimental stations in apiculture, or has an apiarian department at its Agricultural College, it is surely time for a Province such as Ontario and an Agricultural College such as she possesses to establish such a department.

We learn from Dr. C. C. Miller, Marengo, Ills., U. S., that an effort is being made to raise a sum per annum for the Rev. L. L. Langstroth sufficient to place him above want during the remaining years of his life. We all know of the very great debt every bee-keeper who uses the moveable frame hive owes to Mr. Langstroth and as such we owe him much. Then too it is our privilege to contribute towards the maintenance of one who is in his 78th year, and who we know has been used in the service of his and our Master,

and by giving in this spirit alone we may look for a higher reward. Particulars will be given by Dr. Miller; address as given above.

The *Bee-Keepers' Review* No. iii. is to hand and largely taken up with the question of honey planting. The testimony is in accordance with our views. Planting for honey is in theory good, in practice it rarely succeeds. We are testing on a small scale the Chapman Honey Plant and have considerable faith in it. Sweet clover in waste places is no doubt good but doubt if it will pay upon good land. In the *Review*, R. L. Taylor omits a very important point when speaking of Alsike Clover. Basswood and white clover are very easily affected by drought and atmospheric conditions. We have, however, watched Alsike for 8 or 9 years, and every bee-keeper knows we have had some very trying seasons during this time, and Alsike has given a surplus in our locality every one of these years, and it appears a *sure* source of honey if we only get our bees strong for it. Its root is very deep; for this reason we consider it superior to all clovers and desirable. It pays as a farm crop.

Mary Ellen, daughter of Mr. Henry Stennett of St. Marys, died on Sunday, 15th April; she was taken sick the previous Monday with brain fever. It will be remembered that Mr. H. Stennett lost his wife just 12 weeks previous. The family have our sincere sympathy in their affliction, and we trust they may be comforted with the knowledge of a bright reunion.

We are highly pleased with our staff of contributors who so kindly interest themselves on behalf of our paper; and would ask our friends to send in seasonable articles for June, July, August, etc., before the busy season comes on. They shall be put in at the proper time. We may say we have received no complaints from our subscribers and much to the contrary, and over

half our subscribers who have renewed have sent us two new subscribers. To these we are grateful for their kind efforts and shall continue to conduct the C. H. P. in their interests.

For some time the D. A. Jones' Co. and their friend who spares no opportunity to "boom" anything they may desire to bring before the public, have kept the public waiting to see what the "new invention" should be. It is a comb honey super with a "reverser." We examined it at Toronto and predict that as then made the reverser will soon be discarded; it has not sufficient strength to allow of removal when fastened with propolis. It will also be very difficult to manipulate when the bees are in the hive, the bees must be crushed when between the reverser and sections. We have had something in the hive line from them almost every year and it would take a small fortune to "keep up with the hives." Several years ago we remember a wonderful contrivance was shown at Toronto Exhibition by them. It had four queens laying in it, separated by perforated metal and the amount of honey securable by it could more readily be imagined than recorded. They secured a prize. For years Mr. Jones advocated a deep frame, and honey taken from the brood chamber was the only proper way to take honey, the Langstroth hive was of no use; what a jump it was to the Heddon hive, it must have taken everybody's breath away. We are pleased, however, that Mr. Jones, although late in the day, has begun to realize that the proper way to take extracted honey is by the tiering up system. However valuable their opinion may be in the taking of extracted honey, we prefer the practical inventions and experience of those who really take comb honey, to mere theory.

THEORY vs. PRACTICE.

BY J. E. FOND.

Unfortunately for the best interests of Bee-Keepers, the impression has gained to some

extent in the outside world, that they, are a lot of theorists, who instead of working for the greatest good to the greatest number, are trying to feather their own nests, by attempting to show, (or some of them at least,) that they alone know it all, and their appliances are the only ones of value; that their theories alone are worthy of acceptance, and by the use of their hives alone, can Bee-Keeping be made a success. As to honesty, and integrity of purpose, the matter is not at all considered; all that is thought of, being that the theories don't pan out as anticipated, and the hives don't bring in honey when there is none in the fields to be gathered. The great trouble has been that some one of little practical experience, but with a fair knowledge of bee literature gets an idea into his brain and elaborates it therein, till finally he thinks he has discovered something new and valuable; then without testing the matter, he rushes the idea into print. No harm would be done if experts only read the matter; but Amateurs who read the article, are impressed with the way it is put, and in testing find to their sorrow and disgust that failure follows, then comes the trouble, but bee men of intelligence are condemned as well as the author of the humbug, and bee-keeping suffers thereby.

Patent Hives and traps of various kinds have been offered, that possessed no merit whatever, yet were claimed to make the man rich who bought them. The "Cottons" of the bee world are still alive and every season we find them putting in their work. The remedy against all this is for bee-keepers to take a reliable journal, and follow its teachings; by so doing they will steer clear of the humbugs, and save enough in a single season to pay for many years' subscriptions.

No. Attleboro, Mass., U. S. A.

SPRING FEEDING.

Shall it be done? If not why?

If so when, what and how?

A. B. MASON.

The above questions are asked and will be answered differently by different persons, owing to the different methods pursued and the different results obtained.

Shall it be done? I suppose what is meant by spring feeding, is stimulative feeding. If that is the case I should say, no.

Why? Because it is not necessary. With plenty of suitable stores I believe a colony will gain as rapidly in numbers as if stimulated, for all unnecessary disturbance is hurtful, especially in the Spring when the majority of the bees are old and the excitement caused by feeding shortens the lives that it is desirable to save. *Especially* injurious is stimulative spring feeding if the colony is not kept warm, and with or without feeding, a *most important* thing to be done is, to keep all colonies COMFORTABLY WARM, so that the stores can be readily reached at all times in all parts of the hives.

Of course every bee-keeper who takes one or more bee-journals knows how this is done.

If any colonies are short of stores, by all means feed, and give an abundance in the shortest possible time, and if possible when the thermometer indicates not less than 60° in the shade, and afterwards avoid disturbance and keep them warm as above stated.

It may be a notion, but I am not alone in it, that when the bees have plenty of stores on hand they don't seem to be afraid of getting too much brood on hand, and if kept warm they will not be obliged to contract the cluster on cool days and nights, after having enlarged the area of eggs and brood on warm days, thus destroying eggs and perhaps quantities of well advanced brood, exhausting the vitality of the old bees without having made any advance, but rather lessening the strength of the colony.

The best way to feed is to have extra frames of sealed honey that can readily be placed within reach of the bees, either by hanging by the side of the cluster, or by laying flat on some small sticks placed on top of the frames.

If the Bee-Keeper has not got a supply of these frames of sealed honey, the next best thing to feed is dark, unsaleable extracted honey, or a cheap grade of sugar made into candy or syrup. I say cheap grade because the bees having frequent flights, it will answer the purpose and save money.

If the colony is not already supplied with bee-bread a generous supply should be furnished, for this is just as essential in brood-rearing as honey or syrup, and can be as readily supplied. Pea, rye, oat or wheat flour are good substitutes for bee-bread, and may readily be fed by making into a thin paste with either extracted honey or sugar syrup,

and be readily pressed into empty combs with a case knife.

If I wanted to feed candy, I should by all means use what is known as "Good Candy," and Mr. Editor if you have not told your readers how it is made, perhaps it would be a good plan to tell them now. (Will do so later.—Ed.)

This can be put in a frame or box, an inch or more deep, and of a size suitable to hold the desired quantity and laid on top of the frames over the cluster; if put in a box it must of course be turned bottom side up.

In making syrup to feed I have always used coffee A sugar, taking about 8 pounds of water to 15 pounds of sugar, put the water into a vessel that will hold twelve or more quarts, and bring it to a boil, then put in the sugar gradually stirring constantly while it is being put in so as to prevent its settling and scorching on the bottom. When all the sugar is added, bring to a boil again, skimming before it boils, if necessary. Then remove from the fire and add 2½ or 3 lbs. of honey to keep the sugar from crystalizing.

The best way to feed this that I know of, is to lay an empty comb in a wash tub or other suitable vessel and pour the syrup while warm, but not hot, on the comb from the height of a few feet, in a small stream or from a sprinkler that has a fine rose. When one side is filled turn the comb over and fill the other. Then stand it in some dish to drain, when it is ready to put in the hive. Any desired number can readily be filled in this way.

Auburndale, Ohio.

For the Canadian Honey Producer.

REV. D. P. NIVEN.

DEAR SIR:—I cannot do better in the meantime than give you a few facts about my own bees, the prospects of springing, and other items of interest in my locality. The snow is hanging long with us here, the fields being yet banked by the fences. I hope it may be gone by May, when the bees at the latest should be out. Last year I put them out between the 2nd and 6th of May, when the red maple was in bloom, and they had a grand time right along without any feeding or nursing, as if put out earlier when there is nothing to gather, and cold days and nights to contend with. As has been wisely remark-

ed by Mr. Couse and others, now is the time for bee-keepers to be cautious in putting out their bees. One fine day at this season any more than ones swallow, does not prove it to be spring. In "your patience possess your souls," and keep your bees in till there is some honey to gather, though you should wait till fruit bloom. Though they may gather pollen in abundance before that time, yet that will not suffice for hives that may be on their last pound of honey when you put them out, since they will go through in a few days then, what would have lasted as many weeks in the cellar.

My bees are all alive yet and I keep them quiet by lowering the temperature at nights by opening the windows and doors. A few badly affected with dysentery will yet have to await their time before warm enough to get a fly. I find that when put back after a flight they get restless till taken out again. Dysentery I think was caused by keeping too high a temperature during the fore part of the winter, viz.: from 45° to 48°, whereas had they rather been from 35° to 40° in my very dry cellar they would have been all right. I find that strong stocks with abundance of honey get too lively and overeat themselves at a temperature of 45° to 48° as is shown from the fact that some of them in above mentioned condition have already consumed over 20 lbs. of honey. Like the reversible and invertible hives, I think many will be misled by the high temperatures advocated by some of our prominent bee-keepers.

Bees, as you are aware, Mr. Editor, will attempt work outside at a temperature of 45° or 46°, hence it is reasonable to suppose that they get too lively in the repository at a temperature higher than 41° or 42°. Hereafter I shall take care to be rather below this than above it. It is well for bee-keepers to note the difference between a dry and a damp cellar, and between a number of colonies and a few, and to be guided by their own experience as to temperature and ventilation instead of swallowing all that is written by others on these points as gospel.

As far as I know yet bees in this locality are going to come out all right in general, although some are losing a few for lack of stores. I presume there is not much talk of supplies till the bees are safely out and started to work. I trust we may have a good season for honey. "I am waiting for a haul," is the key note

of my song. I am highly pleased with the Constitution of Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association and especially with the mode of disposing of Government Grant. I only trust that our local associations will avail themselves of it through affiliation. I am glad to see that Brant has taken the lead. I must try and rally up our Mount Forest Association, that we may comply with conditions for affiliation. We have been dead for a time, but with this inducement though we may revive with the coming spring. After seeding is over with the farmers, we find it is a good opportunity for a meeting, then the bees are out and started for the season and we can report as to success in wintering and prospects for summer.

Then I will give you an article and speak with more certainty than now in regard to the future. "Our own apiary," is always an interesting article to me in the *C. B. Journal* and I would like to see it occasionally in the *C. H. P.*

The reason we do not occupy more space ourselves in the *C. H. P.* is because we are having such an excellent and growing staff of contributors, friends who we are all pleased to hear from and who we trust will not relax their kind efforts. Our bees are wintering well, two colonies died from dysentery. We did not get back from the Exhibitions until late for feeding and several have starved, we have the bee-candy on every hive and many are strong enough to partly cover outside combs, the remainder are in first-class condition as far as an examination from the top of the frames can tell us. We wintered outside this year but trust to have a first-class cellar to put them in this fall.—Ed.

WHO IS RIGHT?

To the Editor of Canadian Honey Producer.

DEAR SIR:

If it would not encroach on your valuable columns too much I would beg the use of them to state a somewhat (to me at least) grievous matter to your numerous readers, which I had prepared and purposed laying before the last meeting of the O. B. K. A. Being a member of that association I considered they had a right to justify me or show wherein I am wrong, but as the sessions were too limited I have no other alternative than this, and

as I don't want to be trodden on unjustly I hope you will bear with me while I endeavour to state the facts as clearly as possible.

Many of you are no doubt aware that I invented and patented several new improvements in connection with bee-hives, last summer, which I showed at Toronto Exhibition and London Fair in September, the principal features being a movable side or end and a cut in centre of end pieces of frames through which one edge of a piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch hoop iron passes and by which the frames are suspended while the opposite edge of said iron engages a groove in centre of end pieces of hives, the groove being proportioned to allow the iron to slide easily, which has also to extend through centre of ends of side pieces. The aforesaid cut in ends of frames is about 11-32 of an inch deep, which allows the frames to drop about 5-6 of an inch when reversed, thereby leaving a bee space between the top of frames and the level of top of hive, while the bottom of the frames should come a fraction below the bottom of the hive so that when set on any level surface they will be eased off the iron slides, allowing them to be more readily withdrawn; or if the manipulator wishes he may remove the side and take out the frames by the side. In opening full colonies of bees I have often experienced great difficulty in starting the first comb as well as danger of bruising and killing bees, this trouble led me to my movable sides, which I found to be a very great convenience, so much so that I had it patented, being entirely ignorant of any such device being previously in use, but have since learned that others are ahead of me in that and am quite satisfied to allow the honor to go to where it is due, but at the same time I wish you to understand that it was purely inventive on my part, having never heard, read or known in any way of movable sides to hives being used until I made them myself. And as for cut in ends of frames to allow the drop when reversed, I have yet to learn of its previous use, although Mr. D. A. Jones told me at Toronto Exhibition that I couldn't patent it as he had it before me, but I was given to understand by another party before leaving Toronto that such was false.

After deciding to have those ideas patented I had a model made, drawings and specifications thereof obtained and expressed to the

Patent Office, Ottawa, at the same time carefully considering the advisability of keeping it quiet till exhibition times or of letting it be known, finally deciding on the latter as being the wiser course; knowing too the power of the press to help a man onward or injure his prospects, I unwittingly wrote Mr. Jones telling him that I had invented a new hive, that its principle feature was a movable side and that it was also invertable, but did not state how the inversion was worked. The result was Mr. Jones met me at Toronto Exhibition with movable sided cases. Now the query comes in, if Mr. Jones was aware of movable sided hives or cases being in use previously and considered them an advantage why didn't he adopt them before he knew that I was applying for a patent on such?

Previous to the fall exhibitions I advertised in the *Canadian Bee-Journal* for Bee-Keepers not to leave Toronto and London fairs without seeing my new invention, "The Chalmers three-sided hive." Well, amongst many others who wished to see it was Rev. W. F. Clarke who came asking me to show him my "three-cornered hive." I had to correct Mr. C. and drew his attention to the fact that it was advertised as three-sided not three-cornered, at which he seemed rather insulted and wouldn't wait to have the properties claimed explained to him but went and penned the following for the *Rural Canadian* re the Toronto Honey Exhibit.

"Several novelties in the way of aparian fixtures were on exhibition, among them was one which had been previously advertised as a "three-sided hive," but which proved to have, like hives in general, four sides, one being made to slip out in order to give access to the frames of comb. There is nothing new in principle here. The Falcon and other hives have this feature. Some parts of the "three-sided hive" are so like the New Heddon that the maker may reasonably expect to be dealt with for infringement."

The above was printed in the Oct. No., 1887, *Rural Canadian* and copied by the "C. B. J." Oct. 19th. The fact is too evident that they have both used their columns in trying to defeat my enterprise as they would fain lead the public to believe by the article in question that I am an infringer. If so I ask wherein? It is not in the use of a shallow brood-chamber, as it has been clearly proved that others have

used it before Mr. Heddon; it is not in the section frames, as I have used them since 1882; and it is not in securing the bee-space when inverted. Having therefore stated the case as clearly as possible and as full as I see any need for, I leave it in the hands of your readers, wishing if wrong to be shown wherein, and if right to be justified.

D. CHALMERS, Poole, Ont.

P. S.—This is not given as an advertisement as I am not manufacturing for sale this season. Will give cuts and explanation next issue.

My thanks are due the *Canadian Honey Producer* for the favourable report it gave of my inventions and am also indebted to Mr. W. H. Weston, who in reporting the Western fair to the *American Bee Journal*, relating to my hive, in conclusion said, "The hive is also invertable, and the working is quite different from any heretofore shown."—D. C.

As we know Mr. Chalmers seeks only right in this matter and we desire to deal with all in the utmost fairness, the inventor of the above hive will be pleased that we can clear one point upon which he desires information. Mr. D. A. Jones did know of the movable side years ago; why he did not then adopt it but has now we are unprepared to say. But some eight or nine years ago when with Mr. Jones he gave us at different times accounts of German and Australian bee-keeping, and it was from such accounts we learned that movable sides were in common, in fact in general use in those and other countries in Europe.—ED.

For the Canadian Honey Producer.

SOME EXPERIMENTS IN WINTER.

BY G. W. DEMAREE.

That bees have been wintered as a general rule with fair success in the cold climates of the world, under the conditions to which they are subjected in winter confinement, to my mind proves nothing more than that the honey bee possesses wonderful powers of indurance. In the absence of better and more natural conditions, perhaps an even or uniform temperature in the winter repository will give the most uniform results as to bringing bees through the winter in the possession of life, but under such conditions

that bees should dwindle and waste away in the Spring is the most natural conclusion in the world. A uniform temperature of 45° or any other uniform temperature is most unnatural, and I should think that any living thing would wear out under its monotonous influences except in a state of profound hibernation. And that bees do survive such treatment is persuasive evidence that bees do hibernate at least in some degree, as claimed by brother Clark. Reasoning from this stand point I have had a theory for several years that a better way to winter bees in a cold climate would be to keep them in a low temperature perhaps just above the freezing point in very cold weather, and at intervals of about 10 days raise the temperature in the repository to a summer heat and keep it up for ten or twelve hours.

My theory was that such a "warming up" would enable the bees to discharge by exhalation all surplus moisture from their bodies, external and internal. In other words have the same effect as does a winter flight. In order to test the matter, at the beginning of last winter I placed in a fruit and vegetable cellar, when the temperature goes down to near the freezing point in very cold weather, a small colony of bees, and at intervals of about ten days the hive was carried into my office where the temperature was kept all through the day at a summer heat. The pad was removed from the top of the brood chamber so that nothing but a thin screen cover was left to keep the bees in place. As the warm air of the room would begin to be felt by the bees they would gradually rouse themselves and in a few hours they would send up a loud roaring noise like in hot summer time. Just before night the pad was replaced and the hive was returned to the cellar for another interval of repose.

The experiment covered about 100 days or to the 15th day of March when the bees in the yard began to gather pollen from the elm. On that day the hive was taken to the yard and placed on the summer stand and the wire cloth removed from the entrance, the little heroic band of workers were bringing in pollen in an incredible short time. These bees wintered perfectly though they were subjected to the severest tests for experimental purposes. In the early part of February they

were fed on warm syrup in which flour had been stirred while the syrup was hot, to try what effect impure food would have on the bees while in their confinement, and although the experiment was repeated several times the bees were able to overcome every difficulty by means of the "warming up process."

This experiment leads me to believe that bees can be wintered in perfect health in any tolerably close room if it is so arranged that it can be heated to a high temperature at the will of the Apiarist. Perhaps a furnace under the building would heat it more evenly than in any other way, still it could be heated from a small side room very cheaply. The hives should be covered with wire cloth screen so as to give perfect upward ventilation when the cushions are removed preparatory to the warming up process. To test the matter more thoroughly, I extended the experiment to four little weak nuclei with not more than a pint of bees each, already enfeebled by the first shock of winter, and by the new process have brought them safely through the winter. They had no sealed stores of consequence and hence were fed on syrup made of sugar and honey at intervals through the winter.

It is proper to say here that none of these bees were fed pure food. The honey used for mixing the syrup was damaged. These experiments show that *condition* is the essential element in wintering bees in good health. The warming up process solves the "wintering problem."

Christianburg, Ky., U. S.

COMB HONEY.

By J. E. POND.

The question of how to raise surplus comb honey most economically is the one of absorbing interest here in the States. More than any other thing is it the cause of discussion; and more too, the cause of offering to public notice patent traps of all kinds. The contractionists and the reversionists have the field of argument almost to themselves at present, for the reason that they occupy so much space with their articles that there is no room for any others. All this would not be so bad in itself were it not that each, in order to bring his wares more particularly into notice, not only decries the other, but at the same time "blows his own horn to per-

fection." Neither of these advocates presents any solid arguments in favor of his theory, but each claims that his method is perforce the best, presumably, because he can best sell his wares by so doing. To myself who am outside the discussion the subject matter of the articles on both sides is interesting, for the reason that I like to see how far each can carry a point when well played, being sure that in the long run common sense will come to the aid of the public, and good will finally result. Plausible theories are always plenty; but plausible though they may be, it has been in the past only those that are of value that are generally accepted and adopted.

The movable frame theory is a fair illustration; when first offered it was decried, and even so good a Bee-Keeper as the late lamented Quimby hesitated in its adoption. To-day the world accepts it, for the reason that it has proved itself to be correct in principle and perfect in practise. The originator of the frame builded however better than he knew. He could not when he first offered it, know as he now does its possibilities, and as time rolls on and the movable frame principle is fully shown up with all its future possibilities, the name of Langstroth will stand the highest of all on the scroll of fame.

To ascertain all that it is possible to accomplish with the frame principle requires further study and tests. Judging from nature it has been assumed that all frames should be spaced $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from centre to centre; this judgment being made because the bees naturally adopt that distance. To the student however another state of things is found to exist in nature, that to me teaches something more. The bees in a mild state must rear brood and deposit stores in the same apartment, consequently must strike a happy medium in spacing. We find however that they *never* seal up brood in cells more than 7-16 inch deep, and that they *always* deposit stores in much deeper cells if they can find them.

Now bees when domesticated labor under far different circumstances than when wild. We lead them by taking advantage of their nature to work for us and for our benefit.

Now why can we not take advantage of the facts above stated and force them to deposit surplus stores just where we wish them so to do? I have tested this matter during the last six years and find it can be done with positiveness and certainty.

In the early spring I shave the combs in the brood chamber just $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick, the natural thickness of all brood combs and space them just bee space apart. At the proper time I place sections in position in the surplus chamber and the result desired is at once attained. Bees place their stores above the brood and as I have stated prefer deep cells for the purpose. Now as they find no cells in the brood chamber except those they desire for brood, as soon as the deeper cells are furnished them they at once use them for surplus; and this is not all. We can also to a great extent control the swarming impulse by this same means. If we desire swarms we give no surplus room; if we do not desire them we give ample surplus space.

I have only briefly outlined the matter but any Bee-Keeper of experience can easily from the data I have given satisfy himself by testing, and my hope is that every Bee-Keeper in the country will test it thoroughly. It requires nothing new as it can be applied to any hive without any extra expense, while the other wonderful methods offered require a complete change of hives and fixtures.

No. Attleboro, Mass. U. S. A., Mar. 29, 1888.

For The Canadian Honey Producer.

WILL. H. TAYLOR.

As my subscription for the C. H. P. has expired and some of my bees have expired also, still am not so discouraged as to wish to do without your valuable journal. An article from the pen of A. J. Cook in last *Gleanings* on the wintering problem agrees so well with my own experience in regard to cellar temperature, that I feel that I cannot do better than refer to it just at this stage.

Last winter I expected to lose the four colonies I was wintering in the cellar, owing to the low temperature, but in spite of my predictions and fears they came out in fine condition.

The temperature for over three months did not average over two or three degrees above the freezing point with fluctuations which would keep it below freezing for some days. But as their stores were of the best quality, sealed honey and no feeding required in the fall, in that lay the secret of my success last spring.

This winter the temperature has been

higher, it stands to-night at almost forty, but for some almost unaccountable reason I have lost three out of a dozen already. Almost a fit subject for blasted hopes.

I am satisfied now the trouble lies in the quality of their stores. Last fall I knew I had to feed extensively, and resolved to do it early, and commenced in good time, but Bee-Keepers who know what it is to try to do a days ploughing, and try to prepare the bees for winter will be able to sympathize a little with me.

The result in short was that it got late before I had them in good shape, and some of the honey candied in the comb, or rather I should have said, the weather got so cool they did not get some of it sealed, and then it candied and worked disaster.

The present loss will learn me not to extract too closely, rather to err on the safe side at the risk of losing some surplus. Have learned also that there is a tremendous loss in feeding back honey. Fed one colony on granulated sugar syrup, early in September. They are the quietest and most compactly clustered of the whole batch, almost certain to come out O. K. in the Spring. Have lost one chaff hive on summer stand as well, and one or two others are showing symptoms of dysentery.

To sum up the whole matter, am satisfied my losses up to date can be traced: 1st, A too vigorous use of the extractor; 2nd, Late feeding.

Derryville, March 28th, 1888.

For The Canadian Honey Producer.

A. D. ALLAN.

I have read in the C. H. P. the several articles on spring management, spring feeding, etc., and find a great deal of valuable information. I believe it is very important to have the brood nest kept as warm as possible. I do it by the use of the division board and a liberal packing of sawdust and adding combs when required.

I do not spread brood or give any to weak colonies. To strengthen the weak it is best to unite or give young bees from a strong colony. In May there are usually some weak colonies that are being robbed, these do not defend their hives so I go about sunset to a good strong colony of Italians that I know are

good fighters and take out one or two combs and shake the bees in front of the robbed colony, they go in and the next day when the robbers come there will be a fight and the robbers are sure to give up the job. Keep the entrance well contracted. My bees are still in winter quarters, temperature outside this morning at sunrise 20°.

Tamworth, Ont., April 13th.

Queries for May.

No. 34. I have a small Apiary, two colonies are pure Italians, the balance are Hybrids and Blacks. I want to Italianize. How can I prevent queens from mating with impure drones? there are no other black bees in the neighbourhood.

You may destroy the drones from your Hybrid and Black colonies by trapping them at the entrance of hives with Alley's queen and drone trap.—Miss H. F. Buller, Cambellford, Ont.

Raise no black drones or confine them to the hive with perforated metal.—Rev. D. P. Niven, Dromore, Ont.

Remove all drone combs from Hybrid and Black colonies and give to Italians.—A. D. Allan, Tamworth, Ont.

You had better Italianise the Blacks before you commence rearing pure queens. Be careful and put as little drone comb into the Blacks as possible. If you are working for honey I would not trouble to Italianise, if you get Hybrids in in part of them they are just as good for honey. I have lost money in trying to Italianise my apiary. The best queen I ever had for comb honey was a *very mixed* queen. My apiary are about all Hybrids. It would take a good deal of dust to get me to Italianise all my apiary —Will Ellis, St. Davids, Ont.

It is sometimes a difficult matter. I would prefer to buy my queens from some reliable dealer.—Ira Orvis, Whitby, Ont.

Let the Italians have a good supply of drone comb, cut out all drone comb of the other hives and fill the holes with patches of worker comb.—Dr. C. C. Miller, Marengo, Ill.

The best way would be to purchase "tested" Italian queens and introduce them to your Hybrid colonies, pinching off the head of each Hybrid queen.—Willis M. Barnum, Angelica, N. Y.

First by stimulating and crowding the Italian colonies so they will have drones before other colonies. Then raise all queens at this early date. Or use drone trap.—Prof. A. J. Cook, Agr. Col., Mich.

Confine the black drones to the hive during the days, the young queens will fly to be fertilized.—A. B. Mason, Aulburndale, Ohio.

There is no certain rule by which it can be done unless you can prevent drone production entirely from the impure colonies. By using "Alley's queen and drone Trap" you will come nearer to it than by any other method I know of; and by this means you reduced the danger to the nearest minimum possible.—J. E. Pond, No. Attleboro.

Use an Alley drone trap to catch all the drones of mixed breeds.—J. M. Shuck, Des Moines, Iowa.

Furnish sufficient drone comb to the Italian stocks to rear an abundance of drones and remove all drone comb from the native stocks. Keep the Italian stocks very populous even if to do so it is necessary to give them brood from the native stocks. H. Alley's book on Queen rearing would be worth many times its cost to the person asking this question.—L. C. Root, Stamford, Conn.

Keep drone comb out of the hives you do not wish to raise drones from, and use the Alley Queen and drone trap.—ED.

No. 35. (a) Is it possible to have the honey all capped before extracting, and keep the different varieties separate? (b) If not which is most desirable,—to extract some before it is entirely sealed, or to leave it to be entirely sealed, and have it more or less mixed?

You can keep the honey from the principal bloom, clover, basswood and thistle, separate, by a little care as to time of extracting and still have it about all capped over. If any should be moved before it is sufficiently capped, keep that grade separate and what you take afterwards will be unmixed.—MILLS H. F. Buller.

(a) Hardly possible. (b) Have it entirely sealed, though a little mixed it does not matter in my locality whether the clover honey chiefly abounds. Rev. D. P. Niven.

(a) No. (b) Extract if three quarters sealed, if not allow it to mix.—A. D. Allan.

(a) No. (b) Let it mix.—Will Ellis.

(a) No. (b) I can only answer for my own locality. I never wait until it is entirely sealed before extracting—Ira. Orvis.

(a) Hardly possible, but enough so for practical purposes very often. (b) I shouldn't wait for it to be entirely sealed, neither would I expect to keep it entirely separate.—Dr. C. C. Miller.

Yes. Simply leave the uncapped honey upon the hive until properly capped. I have little or no trouble in this respect as I make the bees thoroughly cap each section before I take it off the hive. The honey will not be "mixed" enough to be noticeable.—Willis M. Barnum.

(a) No. I often extract before all is capped and see no object to the practice; but I never market any honey till it is thick as the best.—Prof. D. J. Cook.

(a) In some localities, and in some seasons it is, and in others it is not. (b) Extract before it is entirely sealed.—A. B. Mason.

(a) It will depend of course upon circumstances, but if honey is being gathered from several sources you can't prevent mixing in any case. (b) I myself should prefer to extract after capping, as I think the slight effect to flavor would be far outweighed by the better preservation of the honey when fully ripened in the hive.—J. E. Pond.

I prefer honey capped before extracting.—The operator should be able to grade the honey while in the comb by holding it between him and the light. A very slight mixture will do no harm. I would grade extracted honey as white, amber, and dark, as to color.—J. M. Shuck.

It is hardly possible. It is usually desirable to remove white honey before it is stained with dark grades, whether all is sealed or not.—L. C. Root.

(a) No. (b) Leave it to be entirely sealed, there is no damage done by mixing different kinds of honey as long as the color is all right. It is not desirable to educate the public much about different kinds of honey. They will ask for clover, linden or thistle frequently to show how much they know and at the same time be quite unable to tell one from another. The crop is so uncertain we may not have the kind called for.—Ed.

No. 36. I use full sheets of foundation in the brood chamber, Langstroth Frame. What thickness of foundation shall I use?

If the frames are wired foundation of a third less thickness will do. If not wired the full thickness will be best.—Rev. D. P. Niven.

I have always used foundation, about 5 square feet to the pound.—A. D. Allan.

I use full sheets from 5½ to 6 ft. to the lb.—Will Ellis.

From 5 to 6 sheets to the pound.—Ira Orvis.

4 or 5 feet to the pound. If frames are wired, 6 or 8 feet to the pound might do.—Dr. C. C. Miller.

Medium.—Willis M. Barnum.

I prepare seven or eight feet to the lb. for the brood frames.—Prof. D. J. Cook.

About 8 feet to the pound.—A. B. Mason.

I myself prefer foundation that will run from 6 to 8 sheets "L. frame size" to the pound. Many prefer lighter foundation, and if wired frames are used, it works quite well ordinarily. The heavier foundation makes the stronger comb, and for extracting and wintering I prefer it for those reasons. The expense of the heavier foundation is but a trifle more per hive, than the lighter, and the combs are enough better to pay the difference. I should advise using wired frames however, even with the heaviest foundation; in fact I should advise it if only starters were used and the bees forced to build the comb themselves.—J. E. Pond.

Six to eight square feet to the pound.—J. M. Shuck.

I prefer about six square feet to the pound for shallow frames.—L. C. Root.

Five to six lbs. is about right to prevent sagging in frames, many use it for light and the foundation stretches especially when heavy swarms are put upon it.—Ed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Stamford, Conn., April 2nd, 1888.

My health has been better since I came here, and I was in hopes to be able to give more attention to writing, but about three weeks ago we had the most terrible storm ever known in this State. In attempting to return to my home from town about two miles distant, I suffered most severely, in fact almost perished and I am again suffering somewhat.

L. C. Root.

We regret very much to learn the above. Mr. Root being for some time unable to do much in the way of writing is a severe loss to Bee-keepers.—Ed.

Angelica, N. Y., April 4-6, 1888.

Bees coming through winter in *good* shape. Some colonies were almost starved but I feel quite encouraged now.

WILL. M. BARNUM.

British Columbia, April 2nd, 1888.

Bees have been flying on and off here about 2 months; they have had one spell of about a week and have gathered some pollen from willow, they will, however not get much of anything for a month yet.

ALEX. HOLDING LANGLEY,
British Columbia.

Nassagaweya, Ont., March 30th, 1888.

Bees are wintering well with me; have not lost any up to time of writing. Cannot tell what may come. The Spring is not over yet; all seems well at present. Must say that I am pleased with the C. H. P., find it profitable to read; only wonder that you can supply it at the meagre sum of forty cents.

ABNER PICKET.

Orangeville, Ont.

I put 18 colonies of bees in cellar on Nov. 10th last, in very good condition, they appear to be doing well. I increased last season from 7 to 20 and got 250 lbs of honey, the extracted honey I sold at 10c. per lb. I also sold one swarm for \$5.

One of the swarms came out about 2 o'clock in the day and clustered in a tree. I was away from home but they stopped in the tree till next morning when I hived them. I have been two years in the business and like it well. I intend to go right on and make a success of it if possible.

W. I. ROBINSON.

Mohawk, Ont.

I noticed bees carrying in pollen April 6th.

D. ANGLISII.

No Attleboro, April 15th, 1888.

I have always been of the opinion that the query department was as valuable as any other; in fact rather more so, as from the views of the many a happy medium can be drawn. We all differ in many matters, but some of that difference grows out of difference in locality. This matter is not enough thought of or taught, and sometimes mischief is caused by following the methods of Louisiana away up in the North. The *answers*,

coming as they do from all sections, give practical views well to be followed by Bee-Keepers in those sections.

J. E. POND.

To the Editor of Canadian Honey Producer.

Dear Sir:—

An Editorial in your April No. would appear that I was not favorable to Mr. Macpherson as a Director. Allow me to inform your many readers that such is not the case. Mr. Macpherson has always taken a great interest in our Association Meetings, that, with the large acquaintance he has with Bee-Keepers in the Province, should make him a valuable member of the board. At the last annual meeting in Woodstock his vote was next below Mr. Schultz; that of itself would justify his appointment to the position. Had you been at the board meeting you would say the Directors worked harmoniously together for the best interest of Bee-Keepers in general. Thanking you for this valuable space I remain

Yours truly,

MARTIN EMIGH, Pres. O. B. K. A.

To the Editor of Canadian Honey Producer.

Dear Sir:—

In the report of the Directors' Meeting that I sent you on March 28th, it seems I made an error in regard to Mr. Macpherson being elected a Director in place of Mr. Schultz by vote. There was a motion moved and sec., but the President has written me that it was not on the motion that Mr. Macpherson was elected, it being by himself.

Hoping you will allow space for this correction.

Yours,

W. COUSE, Sec'y O. B. K. A.

We were not present at the meeting and had simply the report as kindly forwarded to us. We have had several versions from different sources of the matter. One present writes: "The Director was elected by the Board of Directors. Another writes more fully: It appears there was a doubt as to whether the Constitution adopted at Woodstock did not clash with the Art. Act Clause 72, and it was moved and seconded, and the expression of the Directors taken which was almost unanimous in favor of Mr. Macpherson, and after the expression, the President declared the Director elected. This latter expression is constructed into the declaration

of the President and the strength upon which he was appointed ; of course the President an *individual* generally appoints, and a body elects ; however it is well for the Association that the business done at the Directors meeting will hold water according to the explanation.

One Director thinks our criticism "a little strong." The only thing we can consider strong is the expression "this presumptive Director" we would remind our readers that presumptive means *supposed*, presumptuous would be stronger. The former is not abusive in the least. We must consider it injudicious however to appoint any one of a firm who put that page of advertising in our Constitution and By-laws.—Ed.

The Honey Committee for Industrial Exhibition met yesterday. The prize list will be the largest we have ever had ; about \$300, besides several Silver and Bronze Medals. The O. B. K. A. and Industrial gave \$25 each, to make up a prize of \$50 for the neatest and most tasty display of honey.

Will set out some bees this afternoon, 25th.

MARTIN EMIGH, Pres. O. B. K. A.

CONVENTION NOTICES.

The Norfolk Bee-Keepers' Association will meet at Delhi, Saturday, June 2nd.

C. W. CULVER, Sec'y.

The Brant Bee-Keepers' Association will meet at the Court House, Brantford, on Saturday, May 5th, at 2 p. m. Ladies are specially invited.

R. F. HOLTERMANN, Cor. Sec'y.

North Middlesex B. K. Association will meet at Ailsa Craig, Court House, Thursday 24th May, 1 p. m.

F. ATKINSON, Pres.

Unsolicited Testimonials.

March 23rd, 1888.

I am much pleased with the Honey Producer and consider it one of the best Bee Journals on my table and they are *all* there too.

J. E. POND,
No. Attleboro, Mass.

I like your paper well and hope you will get an increased circulation.

W. J. ROBINSON,
Orangeville Ont.

Norfolk Bee-Keepers' Association.

The last meeting of the Norfolk Bee-Keepers' Association was held at Dean's Hotel, Simcoe, when about 20 Bee-Keepers were present. The president, Mr. Nelson Clouse, occupied the chair.

The minutes and discussions of last meeting were read and adopted. No essays were read so they proceeded to the question box.

The first question was : What is the value of bees to the fruit grower ?

J. B. McInally says he believes bees good for fruit, his grape vines bearing better since bees were kept on the farm than before.

W. Nickerson said he had seen bees working on ripe peaches but could not say whether they were first to puncture the peach or not.

John Murphy said bees of all description that fertilized flowers were of value.

C. W. Culver said he thought the value of bees to be about one third of the fruit crop.

The next question was, Is salt necessary for bees ?

There was a great difference of opinion on this question.

What is the best way to feed in spring if bees are short of stores ?

Mr. Burkholder said feed granulated sugar and honey in the proportion of 5 lbs. sugar to 1 lb. honey.

Some others preferred feeding honey in the comb.

What is the best way to get granulated honey out of combs ?

C. McInally said spread the brood frames and put in one comb at a time, only when the bees require more comb and the weather is sufficiently warm.

Is it best to pack bees after taking them out of the cellar ?

C. McInally and L. H. Steinhoff had tried packing with sawdust but did not have good success.

C. McInally thinks a dead air space would be good. Mr. Burkholder had packed in chaff with good success.

Will it pay to hive bees back in a hive where a colony has already come from to stop increase ?

No person had any experience with this way of management.

There was some other discussions, on the marketing of honey, &c., also discussions on

affiliation with O. B. K. A., but no decided action was taken on this. The meeting then adjourned to meet in Delhi, on Saturday, June 2nd.

C. W. CULVER, Secretary.

The Bee and Honey Show at the Ohio Centennial.

Dr. A. B. Mason in writing us says, the following is the premium list, for bees, honey, apiarian supplies, etc., for the Ohio Centennial Exposition to be held at Columbus, O., from Sept. 4th to Oct. 19th, 1888.

I am in hopes that we shall be able to have an apiary established on the grounds, and have public manipulation of the colonies by Bee-Keepers who may visit the Exposition. As the Exposition is intended to show the material advancement of Ohio in a hundred years, it will be "just the thing" to have on exhibition the most antiquated appliances, as well as the most modern, and to show also how bees used to be kept and honey obtained, and I hope those having old things of interest in bee-keeping, whether they live in Ohio or not, will correspond with me with a view to having such things on exhibition.

The old "log gum," box-hive, and the straw hive, all with bees at work in them, will be among the attractions, "if it takes all summer" to get them. The cow-bells, tin horns, and tin pans that used "to make the bees alight," will recall to some "the days of childhood," and make them young again.

Here is the Premium List in the Apiarian Department:

BEES, HONEY, AND APIARIAN SUPPLIES.

A. B. Mason, AUBURNDALE, O., Superintendent.

All entreaties close Aug. 6. Anything competing for a single premium cannot be included in a display. Colonies must be exhibited in such a shape as to be readily seen at least on two sides. Such provision will be made for the display of comb honey (and other articles that might be injured by bees,) that it can be exhibited without crates. Everything must be in place by the morning of Sept. 4th, 1888.

Display of comb honey (largest and most attractive,) \$25 ; \$20 ; \$15.

Best display of extracted honey (largest and most attractive,) \$25 ; \$20 ; \$15.

Best sample of extracted honey, not less than 20 lbs., in best shape for retailing, \$5 ; \$4 ; \$3.

Best sample of comb honey, not less than 20 lbs., in best shape for retailing, \$5 ; \$4 ; \$3.

Best colony of bees, numerical strength and purity of race being competing points, \$10 ; \$8 ; \$6.

Best race of bees, numerical strength and

purity of race, the competing points, \$10 ; \$8 ; \$6.

Best collection of honey producing plants, \$15 ; \$10 ; \$5.

Best display of beeswax, \$8 ; \$6 ; \$4.

Best foundation mill, \$6 ; \$5 ; \$4.

Best foundation press, \$6 ; \$5 ; \$4.

Best foundation for a brood-chamber, made on the grounds, \$4 ; \$3 ; \$2.

Best foundation for surplus, made on the grounds, \$4 ; \$3 ; \$2.

Best foundation for surplus, sample of not less than 10 lbs., \$3 ; \$2 ; \$1.

Best foundation for brood-chamber, sample of not less than 15 lbs, \$3 ; \$2 ; \$1.

Best honey-cake, with receipt for making, \$3 ; \$2.

Best honey-cookies, with receipt for making, \$3 ; \$2.

Best honey-jumbles, \$3 ; \$2.

Best honey candies, \$5 ; \$3.

Best honey vinegar, not less than 5 gals., displayed in glass, \$4 ; \$3 ; \$2.

Best display of queens, in such shape as to be readily seen, \$4 ; \$3 ; \$2.

Best honey extractor, \$5 ; \$4 ; \$3.

Best wax-extractor, \$3 ; \$2 ; \$1.

Best bee-hive for all purposes, \$4 ; \$3 ; \$2.

Best bee-hive exhibition, \$3 ; \$2.

Best bee-smoker, \$3 ; \$2.

Best arrangement for securing surplus honey, \$3 ; \$2 ; \$1.

Best sections for comb honey, not less than 50, \$2 ; \$1.

Best apiarian supplies and fixtures, \$8 ; \$6 ; \$5

A special building is to be erected for Apiarian Supplies. For further particulars apply to Dr. A. B. Mason. The Toronto Industrial Exhibition will have to look to its laurels, and so will the Canadian Bee-Keepers for the Doctor is trying to get up the best show in the Apiarian Department ever made on this Continent.

CIRCULARS RECEIVED.

A. J. Root, Medina, Ohio.—Bees and Bee keepers' Supplies.

Martin and Macey, North Manchester, Ind.—Poultry, Bees and Supplies.

A. Gilchrist, Guelph, Ont.—Evergreens, &c.

D. A. Jones Co., Beeton, Ont.—Bees and Bee-keepers' Supplies.

Henry A. , Wenham, Mass.—Queens.

Thos. G. Newman & Son, 925 West Madison St., Chicago, Ills. U. S.—Bee-keepers' Supplies and Literature,

R. & J. H. Myers, Stratford, Ont.—Bees and Bee-keepers' Supplies.

S. P. Hodgins & Co., Shelborne, Ont.—Bees and Bee-keepers' Supplies.

Queries for June.

No. 37. Is there any material difference in foundation made upon the various mills? If so what mill do you prefer?

No. 38. In Summer, which part of the compass should hives face?

No. 39. How shall I make honey vinegar? Give proportions of honey and water.

LOOK HERE ?

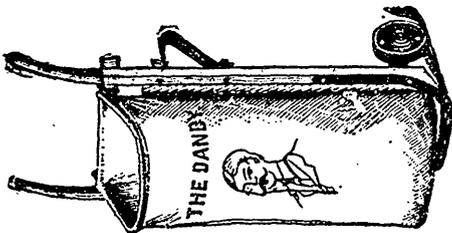
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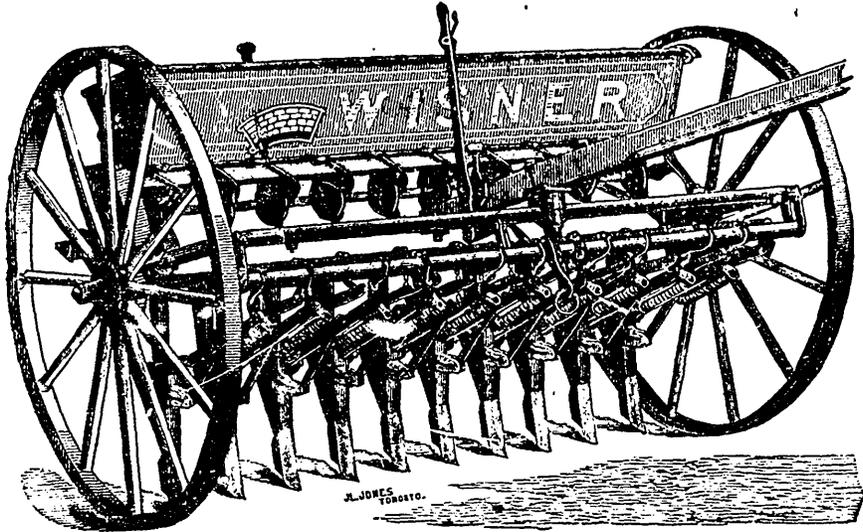
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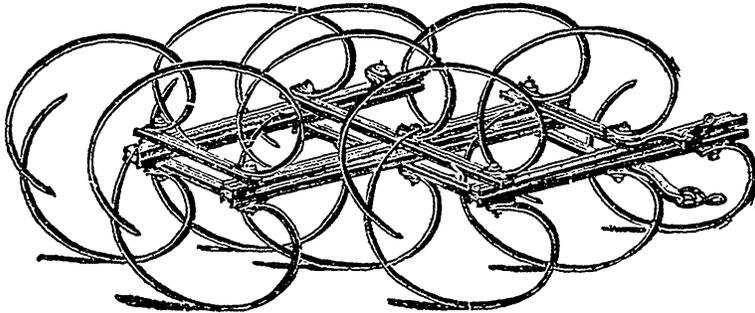
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