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THE



CANADIAN

Honey Producer.

Its Reading Columns for the advancement of Honey Producers exclusively.

Vol. I.

BRANTFORD, FEBRUARY, 1888.

No. 12.

The Canadian Honey Producer,

PUBLISHED BY

E. L. GOULD & 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. For further particulars see our Premium List.

Remittances for fractions of a dollar may be made in Stamps, Canadian or American. The receipt for money sent will be given with the address in the next issue of the paper.

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TO CONTRIBUTORS.

We will always be pleased to forward sample copies to any.

We will thankfully receive for publication items of interest to Bee-Keepers, and we would like to have every issue of the paper contain at least one good article bearing directly upon the management of the Apiary for the coming month.

The Canadian Honey Producer one year with the following Books:

Cook's Manual of the Apiary, cloth,	\$1.25	\$1.50
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A. B. C. in Bee Culture, A. I. Root, paper,	\$1.00,	1.25
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CHARLES CHAMPION,

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Patented in Canada and United States,

THE CANADIAN
HONEY PRODUCER.

Vol. 1. February, 1888. No. 12

This number completes the first volume of the *Canadian Honey Producer*. No 10 and 12 are taken up by the Report of the North American and Ontario Bee Keepers' Conventions. The various departments have been left out in these, but for this we require to make no apology; we have only shown that we intend to spare no trouble and expense in giving valuable informations to our patrons.

We have adhered faithfully to our promise not to use the reading columns for advertising our goods and to such an extent that others have received greater prominence than ourselves, willing rather that this should be the case than that there should be any ground for believing we have not been faithful.

We have had a letter from L. C. Root, from whom some of our subscribers may have looked for contributions. We regret to say health will not permit him to do much work but we trust that before long we shall be favored with articles from his pen.

Infallibility is not claimed but our desire is to conduct this paper in the interests of Bee-Keepers; this will be in the best interests of ourselves as well, and we look forward to a renewed and extended patronage. Every Bee-Keeper can do something for us; we would ask all to renew promptly, and would remind such that by a little effort, securing two more subscribers, they can have the *Canadian Honey Producer* for one year for only 20 cts. See "premiums."

Owing to the report of this meeting, matter of interest in the various departments have been left out.

The *Bee-Keepers' Review* has come to hand. It is a neat monthly, 50c. per

annum, edited by W. Z. Hutchinson, Flint, Mich. We congratulate friend H. upon the initial number.

Annual Meeting of the Ontario
Bee-Keepers' Association.

Woodstock, January 10th, 1888, 2 p. m.

President, S. T. Pettit, Belmont, Ont., in the chair. About 45 present. After enrolling the new members, Mr. F. Malcolm, Innerkip, read a paper on

The Production of Extracted
Honey.

Next to the movable frame no invention has done so much to increase the production of honey as the extractor. When it was found that combs could be lifted from the hive, emptied of their contents, replaced, and refilled, a stimulus was given to bee-keeping that the most enthusiastic never dreamed of. But much of this enthusiasm was based on theory. How simple it looked. Bees are easy wintered, honey is easy gathered, and if we can empty the combs just when we please, what is to hinder any one to make money keeping bees? But hundreds, and I may say thousands, have found theory and practice two very different things when applied to to bee-keeping.

Still bee-keeping has a future, and men and women will succeed in gathering the sweets of nature in large quantities to the benefit of themselves and the good of the public, and from anything we can see at present honey in the extracted form will take the lead as regards to quantity by large proportions. It is therefore important that the producer should understand the means of securing his crop in the highest degree of perfection. As far as quantity is concerned I am at a loss to know what to advise, so much depends on conditions, especially as regards the strength of colonies, favorable weather, and the amount of nectar. Many of the most experienced apiarists fail in regard to the first, and the two last is beyond human control. But with all these conditions favorable, we do claim to know something. In fact, I have said in conversations and through the press, that if there was any one thing I knew, if there is any one thing I

could cordially recommend, if there was one item of advice I could give with pleasure, it was, *don't extract honey till it is ripe*. And yet, strange as it may seem, there are men who know much more about bees than I do, who say this is not necessary, that honey can be ripened after it is extracted. I cannot account for this except on the principle that some men lack the ability to judge both flavor and texture. It is an admitted fact that some men are color blind, but that is no proof that there are not a great variety of colors. So it is in judging of the quality of honey. Every one must know for himself. Believing this to be a matter of great importance, and wishing to impress it upon the convention, I would say that bees do not gather honey, they gather nectar, and from nectar produce honey. It is therefore a process of manufacture, and if it is removed from the bees before that process is finished, man cannot finish it. If asked what the bees do that man cannot, I say, I don't know. But I do know, and many others know that there is a flavor and texture about honey that has been thoroughly capped that can't be produced except by the bees.—Why is it that comb honey is so much preferred to extracted? Do people give nearly double the price simply because it is a fancy article? No doubt this accounts for part of the difference, but the principal reason is, the honey is really finer than honey extracted before it was ripe.

I believe it is unwise to extract from the brood nest and mix the honey with what is intended for market, with very few exceptions can this be done without injuring the flavor and color. I believe in and practice taking all surplus from a top super. What is the best size for combs in the super I do not know, having only had experienced with combs the same size as those in the brood chambers. I believe this is the best practice, it having several advantages that I need not here mention. I also believe in using a queen excluding honey board, by the queens below, a great deal of trouble is saved while extracting. When the queen leaves the brood chamber, it soon becomes a house in ruins.

A difficulty arises sometimes during a heavy honey flow, when everything is full, but none of it ripe enough to extract. In that case it is better to put on a second super on the

tearing up system, that is setting the empty one under the full one. The objection to this is that it is expensive, I have tried with some degree of success to remedy the difficulty by only putting in one-half of the super combs, when the super was put on. The bees commence and fill those, and just when they are commencing to build new comb in the empty half of the super, I fill with the remaining combs. Those that were first put in will be filled and capped much sooner than if all had been put in at once, and frequently they may be taken out and extracted a few days before the others are ready. This is a kind of make shift. The best plan is a second super.

In reply to questions :

I use perforated metal honey board. Nectar and honey are practically two different articles. In making, it undergoes a process, and this process should be permitted to be completed. If process is finished it will be just as good as comb honey. There is an oily smoothness about the comb. Have no idea of the relative amount of comb and extracted which can be secured. The Bee-Keepers of the future were those who went in for quality.

J. B. Aikes, Popular Hill, endorsed all that was said.

Mr. Malcolm thought extracted honey well ripened would take longer in granulating.

Mr. Aikes did, and does not approve of extracting from the brood chamber.

J. B. Hall—With perforated metal one does not get pollen, combs from the brood chamber contain fresh nectar and other liquids, he can get better honey and more of it by extracting alone. The bees are not disturbed below and have no breaks to make. They have more storage room too.

W. F. Clarke was opposed to the extracted and had discarded it for all time.

M. S. Shell—New beginners should particularly be cautioned against the abuse of the extractor it would be an advantage to cheapen honey and the quality could be as good.

Thos. Idyle, Clarksburg, when beginning had extracted everywhere, he now extracted the back combs?

Mr. Malcolm—If we did not have the extractor we would have strained honey, therefore I do not believe in discarding it.

S. Picket, Nasagawaya, takes honey sometimes out of the body of the hive by use of perforated metal.

R. F. Holtermann, Brantford—Is honey when coming in slowly not as ripe before capping as when it has that glossy appearance in the comb?

J. B. Hall—It is good thus, but better capped.

Will. Ellis, St. Davids, uses division board in spring, then puts on supers in willow and apple bloom, this honey he extracts all clean by clover season, then when this super is filled he puts one underneath and when this is full he extracts the top whether sealed or not.

Pres. Pettit—the best honey in color, texture and flavor was honey finished by the bees, it granulates finer.

The Mayor of Woodstock was now introduced, who welcomed the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association.

"Ought Everybody to Keep Bees," by Allen Pringle, Selby. This paper will be taken up in a later issue.

Mr Frith, would not advise people to go into bee-keeping on account of the danger of foul brood with them, they not knowing how to handle it. He gave his experience in getting it and the carelessness practiced by beginners and those inexperienced.

Mr. Malcolm thought that there was no doubt more honey could be secured by having fewer colonies in one place than in more places, but this had its disadvantages also. He knew numbers who had lost money on bee-keeping, more than half had lost money from inexperience.

Mr. Clarke defended bee-papers for advocating bee-keeping.

R. F. Holtermann—The failures in bee-keeping are no greater than in any other line of business. Farmers claimed they were losing money but still they made a living, he never tried to get any one to go into bee-keeping and he never discouraged it.

Smith, Tilbery Centre—Six years ago I bought bees in box hives and succeeded, but others had gone in and failed.

S. T. Pettit said, that we should impress upon men the facts for and against keeping bees.

Moved by W. F. Clarke, seconded by F. Malcolm, Resolved, That while it is the inalienable right of any or every body to go into bee-keeping the same as any other honest business, it is the sense of this meeting that it is unwise to do so without adequate know-

ledge and due qualification. R. F. Holtermann objected, and wished to add that a man might commence with one or two colonies and then increase if experience warranted. This amendment was seconded. Five voted for the amendment, eight for the original motion. A large number refraining from voting.

The *Question Drawer* was now opened, Martin Emigh, Will Ellis and J. Alpaugh as a committee.

Is it possible to ripen honey artificially so that it secures the qualities of that cured by the bees before extracting? No.

In spring management how shall we prevent dwindling and what is the best mode of building up weak colonies? Winter in high temperature 50° on good stores and keep as warm as possible on summer stands.

J. B. Hall—My bees are at present at 54°, when best results were reached they were at 50° and the temperature was not below 48° or above 52°.

Mr. Clarke—L. C. Root's was 56° and C. McNally 55° when I visited them.

J. Alpaugh, St. Thomas—(being now asked to describe his cellar.) Any cellar will remain dry at 50°. My cellar is 25 x ft. x 3 ft., 6 ft. high. There are two partitions through it, the bee cellar being 12 x 20 ft., this part is enclosed by a wall all around one brick thick having on two sides of it the stone cellar wall being two inches from it so the air from the heater can get clear around the bee repository. The temperature is 50°, 52°, and sometimes 54°. The ceiling is lined with boards tongued and grooved. The bottom is concrete. A pipe starting at cellar bottom communicates with the flue 4 x 8, another pipe runs up through the house, can close this pipe by means of stops. Do not believe in sub-earth ventilation. Would advocate two partitions in a cellar in any case to regulate the temperature.

Evening Session, Jan. 10th.

Paper by J. B. Hall, Woodstock, Ont., on
The Best Method to Produce
Comb Honey.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am requested to give a paper on the best method of producing Comb Honey. Allow me to state that any method is but of little value unless in conjunction with the following conditions:

1st, Bee pasturage in abundance, or not more than two miles radius from apiary.

2nd, That said pasturage should not be over stocked, but rather that it should not have enough bees on it to gather all the honey flow.

3rd, That there be in charge of said bees, an apiarist adapted by NATURE, assisted by study and practice, to manage the same, (but the nature part I considered the most important.)

4th It is essential that a hive with movable combs having a large top surface be used.

5th, That the Bee-Keeper be a specialist, or as the phrase is, have all the eggs in one basket, in that case they can be jealously watched and guarded, and used to the best advantage; not so if said eggs are mixed in many baskets with other things.

If the bees have passed the winter and spring well, and are strong in bees and brood at the commencement of the surplus honey flow, a good crop of comb honey can be secured by putting on the hive a shallow super of sections primed with comb or foundation, (I say sections, because if not in nice sections it cannot be sold to advantage,) open the entrance of hive to its full size, and when work is well commenced in the super, raise it up and put an empty super between it and the hive, continue thus until your judgement or experience tells you they have enough space to contain the surplus honey that will be secured.

Other things being right, you will rejoice in a good crop of Comb Honey.

Mr. Hall—By over stocked I mean in a poor season not too many bees.

By a specialist I mean a man that runs bees for the honey, and that to support himself. If you have a farm and run bees, if you have a man to work the farm and attend the bees, if only one colony, you are a specialist,

I contract brood chamber after they swarm, not before.

With Heddon hive I contract in that way, with other hives I use dummies, hiving them on frames for balance. Do not put maturing brood above, it would be too much work and pollen would go up.

(D. Chalmers indorsed the last statement.) For entrance I want whole end of the hive left open, I prefer trees but now uses boards

If I hive on starters which I do not do, super is not put on immediately, if on full sheets next day if on combs I put them on right off. I hive on two combs and then put dummies on, using a queen excluder, I only uses dummies in colonies which require to be superseded, otherwise I do not want them.

Martin Emigh—the best honey I got, I hived on four combs and dummies, and killed all in the fall, I use starters and render any drone comb.

Will Ellis, throws all swarms for comb honey into 5 wired combs, the rest are dummies, he wants no starters.

Martin Emigh thought that the old combs would soil the new comb.

Mr. Hall said the finest honey he believed he ever had was off 3 old combs and 5 starters.

Wm. Couse, could get the nicest comb honey from starters, better than old comb, he puts sections on a day or two after, when they start to lay eggs.

Smith, Tilbery, uses full sheets and next day puts on sections, a year ago last summer they got 8 tons of comb honey, he used no queen excluder and bees did not trouble going up; for extracted he always uses queen excluder, he does not contract.

Mr. Hall uses the queen excluder for extracted honey.

Martin Emigh had all the bees and combs he wanted, and therefore works on the system he did, with starters two-thirds was drone comb.

Mr. Hall—In running extracted honey when you have excluding zinc, you can put the super on at once.

Jacob Alpaugh—If you hive on starters you get nice comb, but the colony is useless.

Wm. Coleman, Devizes—Uses starters inch to inch and one-half, he gets a good many nice combs but some drone. He uses starters in sections, and if drone comb above, they build none below.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

To the Officers and Members of the O. B. K. A.

In reviewing the events that have transpired and the work that has been accomplished during my term of office we would notice:

(1) That we have secured incorporation for the O. B. K. A.

(2) That we have secured a Provincial Government grant of \$500 per year.

(3) We succeeded in making an exhibit of honey on a grand scale at the Colonial and Indian exhibition at South Kensington, London, England.

(4) We have gotten the management and the price lists of the apiarian department of the leading exhibitions of the province, more or less under the control of one Association, and although we cannot redress grievances of the past, it will be the aim and object of the Association to prevent the recurrence of grievances in the future.

(5) The foundation of an Association Library has been laid, the first book of which was a present from our good friend T. W. Cowan, F. G. S., F. R. M. S., etc.

(6) We would not fail to notice the gratifying fact that our Apiarian literature has been augmented by the publication of the CANADIAN HONEY PRODUCER, by our enterprising friends E. L. Goold & Co., of Brantford, Ont.

(7) And last but not least the membership of our Association has been largely increased.

And now in order to make our Association all the more useful, I would go on to say, that whatever way the grant may be used, strict justice must be done to all parts of the province, and that the weak must be remembered as well as the strong.

The appointing of judges and the necessity of placing the prize lists upon a somewhat different basis should be dealt with.

I will repeat my suggestion of last year, that reduced Railway rates should be secured for honey. To avoid unfair rates in England honey is sometimes shipped under the name of syrup.

Owing to ill health and sickness of a severe nature in my family during last session of Parliament, I was unable to apply to the Legislature for legislation to prevent the spread of and to stamp out foul brood in the country. Would it not be well for the prevention of the further spread of foul brood to appoint competent judges—to examine and report upon the health of the bees of all those who advertise bees for sale? All who offer bees for sale should be very careful and not sell diseased bees, nor should bees be sold and shipped out of a diseased locality.

Another dangerous source of spreading foul brood consists in selling honey from foul

brood apiaries. Empty containers are thrown out and neighbouring bees lick up the disease and carry it home. Imported bees should be examined at port of entry.

The question arises: Why should the sale of diseased bees or of any other article calculated to spread the disease be tolerated any more than the sale of cholera pigs, or cattle afflicted with pleura-pneumonia? Great care should be observed by those who visit apiaries afflicted with foul brood, to most thoroughly disinfect themselves and all their tools before going into the vicinity of other bees. I am sure that the principle is gaining ground that the wealthy should not sit down by the side of, and starve out and destroy a poor brother who has placed all his means and perhaps more too in bees and the necessary buildings and other appliances for keeping bees.

The principle, as claimed by some, is not a "new force," but is the same commendable kind and brotherly spirit that moved Abram, when he said unto Lot, "Let there be no strife I pray thee between thee and me and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren."

To advocate the principle of the "Survival of the fittest" in bee-keeping especially since there are lots of inviting unoccupied fields, is simply to encourage the strong to worry and devour his weaker brother. There is no "Do as you would wish to be done by" in it at all.

Whereas an outlet for our surplus honey is a question of vast moment to every Bee-keeper in Canada, I deem it my duty at this time to say a word upon that important subject.

It will be remembered that a year ago I spoke encouragingly of largely increasing the production of honey in Canada, but when all the facts bearing upon the case to date are put together, and weighed and balanced up they force upon my mind the opinion (and I want that opinion to go upon record,) that the British markets are virtually lost to us at paying prices or even at prices at which a man can make a decent living. I know this is a dark picture to present to your minds and I am exceedingly pained to be obliged to hang up in this cheerful room one so very opposite to what I could wish to present to the view of this intelligent meeting; but there is no alternative, duty to you all and to my-

self as well, imperatively demands that I deal faithfully in this matter.

The collecting of statistics relative to our pursuit should be considered.

And now, in conclusion, I would suggest that the conditions are ripe for devising a scheme whereby all County Bee-Keepers' Associations in Ontario may be affiliated with the parent body.

S. T. PETTIT, PRESIDENT O. B. K. A.

Belmont, Ont., Jan. 9th, 1888.

Mr. Mc Nally, Simcoe, then explained his cellar. Size 20x37x9 ft. There are 4 stone walls 18 inches thick, all under ground. He has no cushions on, no propolized quilt, sub earth ventilation, 6 in. tile; 2 are 275 ft. long, 2 are about 100 ft. long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet below the cellar bottom, stone wall, clay bottom, stove pipe 3 in. from cellar bottom, connects with a pipe above. He has a cooler pipe from outside 4 ft. from cellar bottom.

1st. year 48 ° to 50 ° — 66 colonies.

2nd. " 50 ° to 54 ° — 150 "

3rd. " 50 ° to 55 ° — 223. "

This. " 48 ° to 50 ° — 115. "

Never lost a colony in it yet. Were in last year from Nov. 26th to April 25th and 30th. The bottom of pipe communicating with the stove pipe bottoms, bell shaped.

Mr. Frith stated he had wintered with water in cellar

Wm. Coleman winters with water.

Mr. Aikmen had wintered well with water in cellar, he prefers a dry cellar, he raises the hives $\frac{1}{2}$ in. from bottom boards all around.

D. Chalmers questions if water in cellar causes dampness or not, a dry bottom may give a damp atmosphere, no matter how dry, the cellar moisture comes from the floor, he does not believe in sub earth ventilation. They have heavy clay.

Martin Emigh had tried sub earth ventilation he wanted none now.

Jacob Alpaugh wants no sub earth.

J. B. Hall had 300 ft. sub earth, he wants none.

Smith, Tilbery, had used cellar he used no sub earth, he packs cellar window with straw and lets air circulate through that.

R. Mc. Knight thought he had as good a

bee-house as any member, he never had a mouldy comb or damp bee. Thermometer seldom 50 ° generally 49 ° often 44 ° — 12 x 24 x 11 ft. high. He puts quilt and two bags over this, no bees within 2 ft. of the floor, clay soil, and well drained, He is in favor of raising bees off bottom board. He had also wintered out doors.

January 11th, a. m.

Pres. Pettit in the chair. First paper by J. Heddon, on

OVER STOCKING.

Let us first define what is meant by the term. I consider a locality, or honey area, over stocked, when it contains so many colonies that a less number would pay a larger dividend upon the capital and labor therein invested.

I wish I could throw some light upon this obscure and important subject. I wish I knew something definite, about the most profitable number of colonies to keep in one average area, or honey field.

I had thought to confine this subject to these six words—"I don't know anything about it." I do not know as it will prove of any benefit to dilate upon the different kinds or number of blossoms found in any given area. (By the term "area," or "honey field," we mean that area over which the bees of one apiary will usually work to advantage, which in ordinary locations, I believe consists of a nearly circular field, varying from six to eight miles in diameter, and probably containing from twenty-five to thirty thousand acres.) I presume it is of little use to tell of the number of individual bees usually contained in an average colony; of how many blossoms one bee often visits, before he becomes loaded, and returns to the hive; or how much more nectar blossoms contain at one time, than at another; of the fact that a bee cannot tell whether or not a blossom has been emptied by another, until he wastes time reaching down into the emptied nectaries. All of these, and many more points relative to this subject, have been thought of and discussed by many of our most experienced apiarists, and still they differ so widely in their conclusions, that we are left to believe that their means of gaining the much desired, and valuable knowledge have been too imperfect to be of much practi-

cal use to their brother Bee-Keepers. It is a subject that has everything to do with the success or failure of the specialist; yes, and of the amateur as well, in many localities. It is one that I have been much interested in, and watched closely, for fifteen years. I have eagerly snatched and devoured all the thoughts of others that I could come in contact with, both in print and conversation, and yet I feel almost entirely in the dark regarding it.

One of the senior members of our fraternity used to believe and advocate, that no more than six to ten colonies should occupy one area. At the same time he put down the surface of that area, of a size that was so small that we know bees almost prefer going farther, to stopping within its borders; hence we feel sure that this very conservative writer was mistaken. I will now offer seeming evidence of a little different nature, and what to me carries more weight, although it argues on both sides of the question.

You, who have carefully read reports, have noticed that by far the greatest pro rata surplus honey yields, have come from those keeping but few colonies. The same is true of their increase of stock. If I remember correctly, I have never seen one-half the pro rata yield of honey and increase reported from an apiary of forty colonies or over, that has been many times claimed for from three to fifteen colonies. Reports have been very marked in this direction. I have no doubt but that as a rule, the larger apiaries are worked the closest and best which further points to the ease with which a location may be overstocked.

Now let us look at the other side of the question. By the rapidity with which a colony when breeding, will consume a frame of honey, weighing four or five pounds net, we think we are safe in saying that more than one hundred pounds of honey is annually consumed by a normal colony of bees (this includes winter as well as summer consumption.)

In Father Langstroth's comprehensive treatise, "The Hive and Honey Bee," among other statistical records of like import, we find the following:

"East Friesland, a province of Holland, containing 1,260 square miles, maintains an average of 2,000 colonies per square mile."

If this statement, or any of the others contained in his treatise are true, (they are

given by the author as statistics) then it seems time wasted to talk about over stocking. According to that record, I can keep over 50,000 colonies in one apiary, and all will gather sufficient stores to be self supporting. Certainly, 10,000 to 25,000 colonies would give us a nice pro rata surplus, and an overwhelming and unheard of aggregate yield. According to another statistical report, he says I find I can keep 35,000 colonies in one apiary, and expect a nice pro rata surplus yield, for the best authorities declare that our country excels those of Europe, for the secretion of honey.

I presume that colonies differ widely, in their vigor or bravery in going long distances from the hives after honey, when it cannot be obtained nearer home. Certainly this trait can be easily bred up to a high degree of development. No doubt it has been largely developed by those who have bred for honey gathering qualities, rather than for physical markings, because it is at once one of the prime causes of honey storing success, in a colony of bees.

It costs me nearly twenty per cent, more to manage my out apiary (six miles away,) than it would to work the same number of colonies in my home apiary, with those already here.

If over stocking is practically impossible, I can produce at my home apiary, all the honey I am getting from my out apiary, in addition to what I now get here, for less than one-half of the expense that it now costs me. It seems to me that no thinking apiarist can fail to see the great advantage of a thorough solution of this problem. However it may be correctly answered, there are many good reasons why it will not pay two Bee-Keepers to work in the same area, or honey field. Breeding, robbing, etc., are all outside factors that must be taken into account, and further, it is a fact that long before a field is over stocked, according to our definition of the term, the pro-rata yield begins to lessen in quantity. Besides this, honey producing in a small way cannot compete with specialty, and as there are so many rich, unoccupied fields still to be had for the taking, no two specialists should think of occupying the same field.

I am again determined to add my mite to answering the question, by continually increasing the number of my colonies, until a term of seasons, whose natural advantages and

disadvantages, all considered, shall tell me something of this obscure problem.

Wishing you all a prosperous and happy New Year, I subscribe,

JAMES HEDDON.

The next paper was then read.

Can the Specialist produce Honey more cheaply and in better shape than others? If so why?

By *Specialist*, in this case, I suppose is meant one who keeps a number of colonies and makes bee-keeping at least a principal part of his business; just where is the dividing line between one who is and one who is not a specialist may not be so easily determined. I suppose all would agree that a man who keeps a thousand colonies and devotes his whole time and thought to bee-keeping is a specialist, and one who owns a single colony which is left to take care of itself, without the owners knowing whether the king or the drones lay the eggs, is not a specialist. Somewhere between these two lines is a ground where it might be hard to tell whether a man were a specialist or not. Without any hair-splitting however, we may all agree that the specialist in bee-keeping devotes a considerable portion of his time and thoughts to the care of his bees and has enough colonies so that their failure or success may be a matter of serious concern to him.

I may as well frankly avow myself as a believer in specialists, but it is well to look at both sides. The general tendency is towards specializing in all departments. Our great grandmothers cut the wool from the sheep's back, and without passing from their hands the wool was fashioned into stockings or coats. Now all that is changed. At least half a dozen persons take the place of the one great grandmother, each one pursuing his specialty and so it is everywhere. In an age so keen in the pursuit of wealth, there is no evading the conclusion that there must be money in settling down into specialties or it wouldn't be done.

There are however exceptions to general rules. Take the two cases we have supposed, one man with a thousand colonies another with one. The one thousand-colony man cannot produce honey for nothing, that is clear. He must have something to buy his

bread. The one-colony man attaches little or no value to his bees. They cost him nothing, and in the event of a failure of the honey crop he counts upon no loss for he has bestowed no labor on his bees, no study or thought. If they give him a crop, it is so much clear gain. He divides with his neighbor or takes his honey in a pail to the nearest store, and accepts whatever price is offered, as he is not particular what he gets for that which has cost him nothing. He counts it about the same as the wild grapes which grow in his fence rows, and which any one can have for the gathering. Looking at it in this light, as between the man with one thousand colonies and the man with one, does it not look as if the latter has the best of it in point of cheapness? Looking at it no further than this, I do not wonder that some hold the view that every one should be encouraged to keep bees and that to have honey plenty and cheap, all that is necessary is to have a bee-hive at every man's door. But let us see what is the result of this happy-go-lucky state of affairs.

Has not this system been tried? I think close observation will bear me out in saying that before the days of specialists in bee-keeping when honey "cost nothing" not one family had honey to eat where three now have it. Please don't forget that the plan of having bees kept one or ten colonies in a place, is exactly the system that was in vogue fifty years ago, and is no new thing. Is the system practiced as much now as then? Look around you and see. People are not apt to give up that which is profitable. If the man with one colony can raise honey for nothing, does he follow it up year after year? Very seldom. The fact is, take a series of years and he cannot produce his honey as cheaply as he can buy it of the specialist, and the strongest proof is his own actions.

I have just been looking over a list of Bee-Keepers of ten years ago and of those who were specialists not one in ten has left the ranks. On the other hand I recall to mind those who were non-specialists living about me ten years ago, and not one in ten of them to day owns a bee, although some of them had as many as twenty colonies. Putting these two facts together do they not show that the specialist can produce honey more cheaply than others? Else why does he keep at it,

and others give it up. The fact is the latter considers it a matter of luck.

If walking along the road, I find a silver dollar and pick it up, it costs me nothing but I would hardly argue from that that finding silver dollars in the road is the cheapest way of getting them as a steady business.

Very strong proof then that the specialist can produce honey more cheaply than others is the simple fact that he persists in the business where others give it up. Now why can he produce it more cheaply? Why can you buy your coats and pants at the clothier's more cheaply than your wife can make them? Because the clothier has the proper appliances and knows his business, just so with the specialist in any line.

The man who makes a specialty of bee-keeping is provided with books and papers, he studies his business and is the less liable to make disastrous mistakes. Keeping a large number of colonies he can afford to be supplied with the best implements and labor saving appliances, above and beyond everything else however is the one reason that the specialist knows his business. Can you expect anything else in any line of business than that the man who gives his best thought and energies to that business will succeed better than he who knows nothing about it?

To take the middle part of the subject last the specialist will produce honey in better shape for the same reason that he can produce it more cheaply, simply because he has better facilities and because he knows how.

C. C. MILLER.

J. B. Hall stated this paper was by a specialist, and he knew what he was doing. His crop this year was 13 oz. per colony and he fed 4000 lbs. syrup. He was in strong sympathy with the paper. He thought that men were keeping bees who were neglecting other things, and gave as an instance a minister thinking of his bees on Sunday during the swarming season,

Mr. Malcolm, knew men who had kept bees up to the teens and lost money, he believed in specialties in all branches.

W. Hill, St. Thomas, thought that this theory was wrong, men started with a few colonies not intending to be specialists and these men were specialists to-day. He thought any one that wanted to should go on,

W. F. Clarke thought highly of the paper; he commended specialists; he said Mr. Hall's picture regarding ministers could not apply to him.

Mr. Hill thought Mr. Hill would own up he had too many irons in the fire, he could not manage both farm and bees. He could not give people information on bees when busy in the apiary, at other times he never kept back information. When speaking of ministers he did not refer to Mr. Clarke.

R. McKnight—Specialists are the most likely to succeed, but could not say that specialists and specialists only should keep bees. The fruit growers might as well say the specialists only should grow fruit. The farmers should keep bees; the sugar bill could be decreased and it is in the interest of the country for other reasons.

QUESTION DRAWER.—Does it pay to buy dollar queens to get new brood in your apiary? Answer by committee. No.

R. Parker thought it did pay. The dollar queens should be got from reliable parties.

R. F. Holterman thought by experience it did.

W. Hill—The place you get them makes the difference.

Mr. Idyle thought as Mr. Hill did.

Shall we contract the brood chamber by means of dummies or any other way, if so how?

If you have all the bees you want, Yes, if not, No.

How many have practiced inversion? Two responded, (about fifty present;) one against, and one in favor.

Is it desirable to winter with or without bottom boards? With.

In leaving honey to be entirely sealed before extracting, how do you keep the different varieties separate? Can't do it.

Report on Statistics.

To the President and members of the Ontario Bee Keepers' Association in convention assembled.

Your committee on statistics begs to report that on meeting to carry out its duties it found that considerable progress has already been made in the direction of procuring the statistics relating to our industry, inasmuch as one member of the committee has already made arrangements with Mr. Blue, the Deputy

Minister of Agriculture of Ontario, for the sending out of a schedule to all the Bee-Keepers of the Province and that a list of names has already been prepared for that purpose, a schedule has been prepared such as we think it would be advisable to submit to the bee keeping public. At this time we do not see that any other better plan presents itself, and we recommend that the arrangements already made be carried out to their conclusion.

The schedule which we affix gives us information which seems very desirable that we should have at the present time though there are one or two items which might be left out in future reports.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

F. H. McPHERSON,
R. F. HOLTERMANN,
ROBT. PARKER,

Committee.

Woodstock, Jan. 11th, 1888.

Schedule will be published in next issue.

The report was laid upon the table for future consideration.

The foul brood question was now discussed and a specimen shown to any desirous of seeing it. Mr. Frith gave his experience and advised every one to keep away from his apiary during the open season.

J. B. Hall was in favor of excluding bees from U. S.

R. McKnight was also in favor of this and gave an instance where a man continually imported queens and now had the disease, no other cause could be given.

Mr. Hall, St. Thomas, thought the danger was as great from Canada as the United States.

R. F. Holtermann said a number of cases had been reported to him where the individuals had purchased in Canada and could give no other probable source of the disease. The disease was in Canada and the danger now equal all over.

Will Ellis objected to having wax sent to him with bits of comb and half worked foundation, he was becoming alarmed at the name of foul brood and would ask all to be careful in shipping wax to him.

Upon motion the foul brood question was now dropped.

The report of the directors is as follows :

The board of directors beg leave to Report :
—That owing to our Association having as-

sumed a new life under the act of Incorporation, the amount of work necessary to perfect the organization under this act has not been as fully accomplished as your directors could desire. We look, however, to the new board to complete this work and trust that before the end of this year the machinery may be put into smooth running order.

The Secretary Treasurer's report which will be submitted to you, will show the financial condition of the Association to be in a healthy state. Your directors met in Toronto on the 10th of March, a call of the President, to consider the best means of keeping Canadian honey before the English people, but no definite conclusion was arrived at. Your directors decided to give to the members of this year a copy of "Langstroth Honey Bee," as revised by Messrs. Dadant & Son, as a gift.

An important event in the history of the year, was the visit of Messrs. Cowan and Young which we believe will tend to knit more closely the Bee-Keepers of this country to their British and Norwegian brethren. All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. T. PETTIT, Pres.

The Secretary Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand of \$166.90 after deducting the amount set apart to secure a copy of the revised work of Langstroth on the "Honey Bee" by Rev. L. L. Langstroth which would shortly be out.

R. McKnight, Owen Sound, read the following paper :

Our Local Honey Market and how to cultivate it.

Until the production of honey in Canada becomes much greater than it is likely to be, the best market will be the home market. I have no sympathy with the class of Bee-Keepers who constantly lament over low prices and slow sales, who strain their eyes to catch a glimpse of the proverbially green fields that are far away, the verdancy of which pales as they are approached. The demand for honey and the prices paid for it are relatively as good here as elsewhere. I believe this country needs and will take all the honey the Bee-Keepers can supply. The experience of the past warrants this conclusion. What was the production of honey in this Province ten or twelve years ago as com-

pared with its production now! And what its consumption then as compared with its consumption to-day? Was there not a ton of honey put upon the market this year—poor though the season was—for every one hundred pounds offered twelve years ago?—Then the man who had honey to sell carried it to the drug shop? Now the provision dealers are his best customers. Then honey was used as a medicine or partaken of as a luxury—now it is frequently found on the breakfast table, and esteemed a wholesome economical article of diet. What is the conclusion to be drawn from these facts, obviously that the demand is keeping pace with the supply—that honey is no longer associated with drugs or enjoyed only by the wealthy, but is steadily working its way into the homes of the people, and upon the tables of the poor, who are beginning to recognize the fact that its food value is worth what it costs them. It is true the price of honey is now much less than it was a decade ago, but it is also true that Bee-Keepers' requisites are better and cost less than they did then. While the demand for what they produce is steadier and more extensive. To my thinking honey is now selling for all it is worth as an article of food, and he who looks for higher prices either here or elsewhere is doomed to be disappointed. The wholesale price of extracted honey in Canada markets has ranged from seven to ten cents per lb. for some years past, and I know of no market in which our Bee-Keepers can net better prices. I see nothing to prevent these prices being maintained if Bee-Keepers only show themselves equal to the requirements of the business they have embarked in. The general law that regulates the price of industrial and food products is, "a living profit on the labor and capital employed in their production," the supply, and the demand being well balanced. It cannot be denied that the demand for honey in Canada has kept pace with the supply, neither can it be disputed that present prices give a fair profit on labor and capital employed in its production. The wisdom and duty of cultivating the home market is therefore obvious. It is true we have good reasons for anticipating a steady increase in production, as time rolls on, but we have just as good reasons to look forward to a corresponding increase in consumption, and a like in-

crease in demand; but these will not follow without an effort on the part of both the individual Bee-Keeper and this Association to keep the market active and steady. It will be vain to look to the middle men to do this. The output of the apiary is as yet a comparative stranger in the market and it must be watched and protected by those most interested, and not left to the tender mercies of those who care only for the profits to be made out of passing it from one hand to another. With this end in view the wants of our immediate neighborhoods must be fully met by keeping the local markets well supplied, and this should be attended to by those who have most in stock, and most at stake. Such are not the class of bee-keepers who demoralize and destroy the local honey market—their interests lie in the opposite direction and their interests will be conserved by not only abstaining from unsettling the market by cutting prices and unwisely putting their goods into every hole and corner, but by preventing their neighbors who produce but little from doing so. It is I venture to say within the knowledge of every one of you that the cutting of prices, nay the slaughter of honey is carried on by small out-of-the-way Bee-Keepers who produce but little, have no regular customers, and whose income is not materially affected whether they sell what little they have at 10 cents or at 5 cents per lb. Such people having no market already established and not yet skilled in putting up their little in attractive forms, are compelled to sell it at or near home for whatever prices they are offered. The usual practice of such people is to empty their honey into crocks or milk-pails, hitch to the democrat, drive into the nearest town or village and there make the rounds of the hotels and grocery shops, disposing of it for whatever prices they can obtain, frequently selling it two or three cents per lb. cheaper to one man than they succeeded in getting from his neighbor, but in most cases trading it off to the shop-keepers for goods. The purchaser getting it by way of barter is generally willing to sell it to his customers for cash at what it nominally cost him. Thus both retail and wholesale prices are unsettled and the market demoralized.—What is the remedy for this?—the greatest obstacle we have to contend against in building up a steady, profitable home trade? I

think the only solution to the difficulty is for the Bee-Keepers in every community to become honey dealers as well as honey producers.

Let them arrange with the dealers I have above described to take all their honey at the close of the season, at prices that is fair to both parties, and thus put themselves in a position to control their own market, I am persuaded that most small Bee-Keepers will be willing to meet their larger brethren in a scheme of this kind. The subsequent operations of the holder must be influenced by his situation. If he be an old stager he will have a greater or less business connection already established. If this be commensurate with what he has in stock he can bide his time and let the buyer seek him instead of him seeking the buyer. If it be necessary for him to push sales to effect a clearance of his stock he may adopt the means successfully pursued by some people and take to the peddling waggon. If this kind of traffic is distasteful to him he may select a few agents from among the shop-keepers. It will be a mistake, however, on his part if he seeks to put his honey into every grocery and provision store in a town. If he should succeed in placing it in all, it will necessarily be in small quantities, and when shop-keepers take small quantities of an article they make little or no effort to push sales. If the article be honey they will likely put a gem jar or two filled with it in the window and stow the rest in some out of the way place where it never strikes the eyes of the customer. I would rather sell ten hundred pounds to one dealer than thirty hundred to twenty dealers in the same town at the same time, if I wanted to establish a market in that place. Better establish one good agency and stock it well than supply twenty store-keepers with a little just to add variety to their stock. Let the holder select his man. He may be a grocer, a provision dealer or a baker. He must be a live business man occupying a prominent place on a leading business street with a showy front to his shop, make arrangements for the entire use of one of his windows and some space on his counter to be exclusively occupied with your honey for a given time. Then with your goods put up in attractive shop bottles and suitable boxes; dress or cause him to dress his window in such a way that the dis-

play will arrest the attention of every passer by, and I am free to say that man will sell more of your honey in a given time than 20 of his neighbours will do, keeping it as it is usually kept. But don't stop here. Send a case of your best comb honey to the editor of the town paper and advertise the "show" in its columns. If such a display filled even one shop window in every town and village throughout the country, I am persuaded we would hear less of honey being a drug in the market, for the jealousy of your agent's neighbours would soon be excited by his customers asking far that which he has not got, but which might be seen in such rich abundance in his competitor's window across the street. In establishing such agencies, care should be taken to encourage their success by charging no more than a fair price to the agent, and by insisting upon him selling your goods at no more than a fair profit to himself.

These are some of the many methods by which the local honey markets may be improved by the efforts of local bee-keepers.—The aid to this association can only be of an indirect kind. It can make its power felt, however, and by its local aid it can at the same time effect much general good by keeping the industry and the product of the industry prominently before the public. To this end a portion of the government grant should be set apart, and may be employed in a variety of ways. A good plan in my opinion would be for the association to offer one or more prizes for the best and most attractive display of honey at the local Horticultural and Agricultural Shows, such aid to be given only to those districts that have organized local associations already affiliated to the parent society. How lamentably bare of such displays are local and county shows generally?—Whereas if we were well represented at them a vast amount of good would be done, in attracting attention and promoting sales.—Still another matter that the association should take in hand is the general diffusion of knowledge pertaining to our industry among the masses. Here again the general meetings of the Horticultural and Agricultural Societies may be made to serve our interests by our sending to each of them a representative of our Association to remove the prejudices that are too common amongst their members against the so called ravages of

bees amongst fruit, etc. In nearly every district within our corporate limits there may be found one or more Bee-Keepers who could worthily represent our Association at such meetings, and who would be gladly welcomed and heard by them if our secretary intimated to their officers the fact of his intended presence as our delegate. But to guard against disappointment, in such cases we ought annually to appoint one or more association lecturers to fill appointments in case no local man was available. The expenses of such would of course have to be met out of the government grant, and in no better way can a portion of it be employed. "The relation of bees to flowers" might be dwelt upon by the lecturer at Horticultural meetings and would indeed be a very good stock subject at all such meetings, or their work in fertilizing and hybridization might either be incorporated or made a separate subject. Indeed the subject matter for lecturers is almost unlimited, and I know we have more than one man in our ranks capable of doing the work in a way that would be at once instructive to his audience—beneficial to the industry and credible to this Association.

R. McKNIGHT.

Afternoon 11th, 1888.

President Pettit in the chair.

Moved and carried that officers be elected by ballot, and they be now appointed, which resulted as follows :

Martin Emigh, Holbrook, Ont., President.

President Pettit was nominated for vice-president and also director, but positively declined to stand.

J. B. Hall, Woodstock, who had asked not to be put in for President, was then elected Vice-President.

DIRECTORS.

J. K. Darling, Almonte.

Allen Pringle, Selby.

Wm. Couse, Streetsville.

A. Pickett, Nasagawaya.

Will Ellis, St. Davids.

F. Malcolm, Innerkip.

R. McKnight, Owen Sound, Ont.

F. A. Gemmell, Stratford, Ont.

R. E. Smith, Tilbery Centre.

E. Schultz, Kelworthy.

Auditors.—F. H. Macpherson, Beeton, and R. F. Holtermann.

Mr. Thos. Wm. Cowan, and Ivar S. Young, Norway, were elected honorary members.

The Convention thereupon resolved itself into a committee of the whole to take up in sections the constitution and by-laws which Mr. McKnight had been requested to formulate.

These as adopted will make some very important change in the working of the Association, and they will be published in another issue.

After the usual vote of thanks to the retiring officers the Convention adjourned. A few met at night, also the board of directors.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Report of Ontario, Canada, at the N. M. B. Convention.

While the report of an inferior honey yield throughout America generally cannot be excepted by Ontario, we are nevertheless pleased to say that a kind Providence has favored us above the average. The winter of 1886-87 proved favorable to successful wintering, and early March reports looked promising; Spring however resulted in much dwindling, and bees generally were not in first class condition for the honey flow. Maple yielded honey exceptionally well and in Canada some of the oldest Bee-Keepers say this means a generally poor honey yield. However questionable this may be, the prediction proved correct. From all directions reports go to show that the average yield was little if any above 25 lbs. per colony. In my own apiary wherein almost every colony was in the best of condition to avail themselves of the honey flow, there was not one day where the bees worked in a manner indicative of a first class honey flow. Linden which everywhere—by the abundance of the blossom—promised so much was an almost complete failure owing to the intense drought, and yet from this source a great part of the honey of 1887 was secured. I may say this Spring there was neither comb nor extracted honey left upon the market, thus leaving a clear market for the coming crop. This being the case it can readily be imagined our supply will not be equal to the demand of former years at usual prices. First class comb honey in about 1 lb. sections sold in quantities during August and September

at 14 cts. per lb. the same article is now in demand at 18c per lb. wholesale. We do not glass sections. As to extracted I purchased in August and have within the last two weeks purchased first class honey at 8 cts per lb. in 1000 lb. lots, it is wholesaled in 60 lb. lots of over at 10 cts—1c. higher than last year—retailed at 13 cts—1c. higher than last season.

While the past prices of honey and the public idea that an advance in price places it upon the list of luxuries, prevent any material rise, we are free from that injurious cutting in prices from which we have suffered for several years. The method of marketing extracted honey has also undergone a change. We used to retail largely in tin packages of all sizes, and do very much wholesaling in kegs. The consumers found the tin cans were of no use and now, with of course some exceptions, the most desirable method of marketing honey is in self sealing gem jars, the careful housewife can always make use of these. Of course a house purchasing 30 lb. or 60lbs. of honey purchase a can. Our whole-

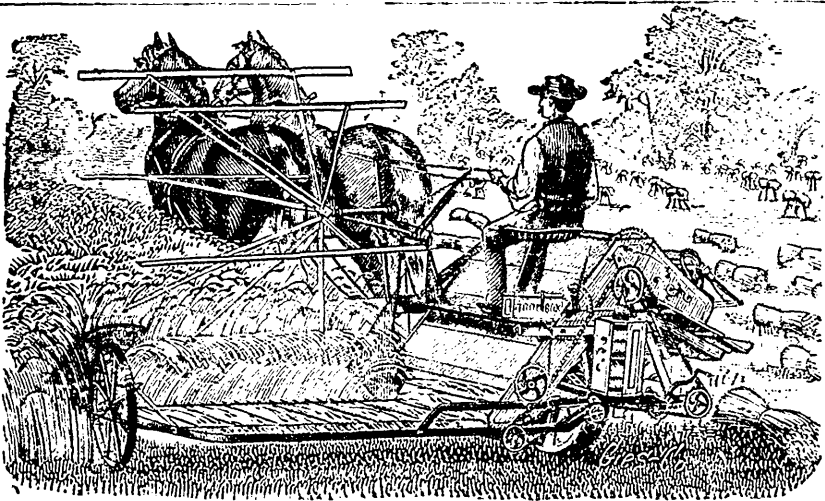
sale package is the 60lb. tin can with a wooden case about it. Honey can readily be liquified in these. The demand for honey labels is also largely a thing of the past, it all adds to the expense of the honey without a corresponding return. Our Consumers are also becoming acquainted more generally with the fact that honey granulates. For several years prices have been given at some of our exhibitions for displays of granulated honey, and also best small lots of granulated honey, this custom commends itself.

As to British markets or foreign markets of any kind nothing has been done. The scarcity of the article alone would have prohibited export, a ready sale being found at home. The Ontario Bee Keepers' Association will hold their annual meeting at Woodstock Jan. 10 & 11. A hearty invitation is extended to our American brethren to come and take part in our meeting. In conclusion, permit me to suggest that at this convention we take up for discussion the question of "ventilation and shade for Hives."—R. F. HOLTSMANN.

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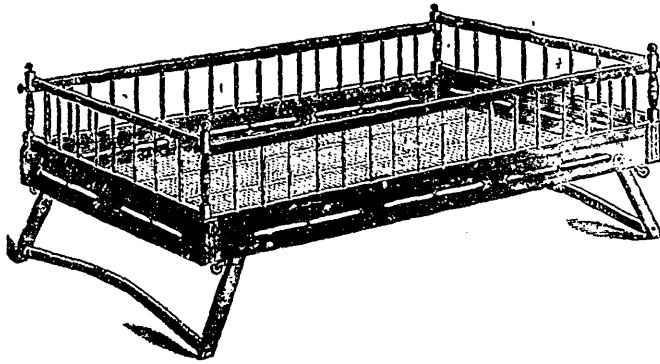
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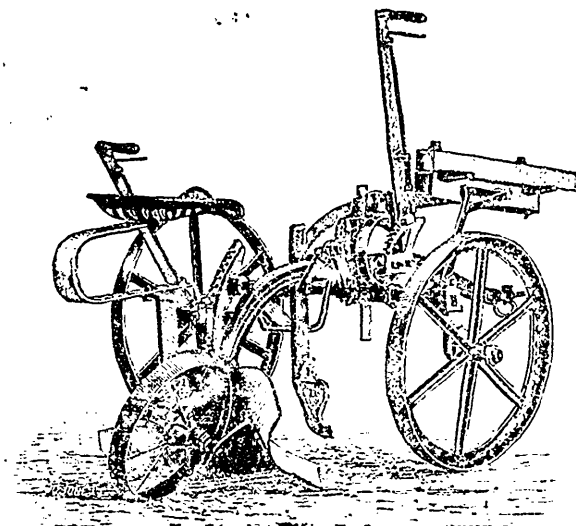
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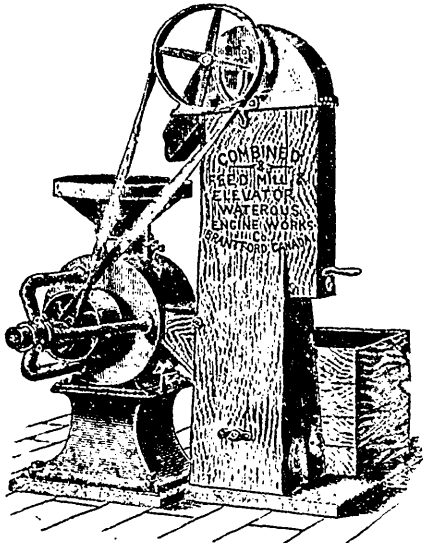
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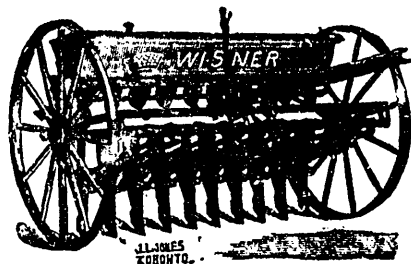
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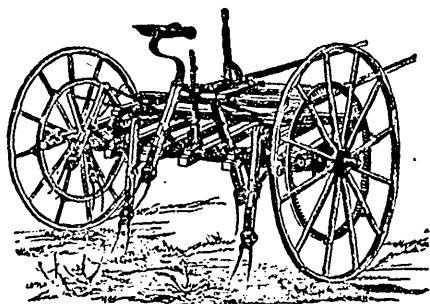
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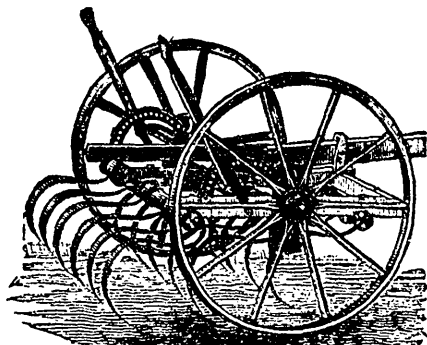
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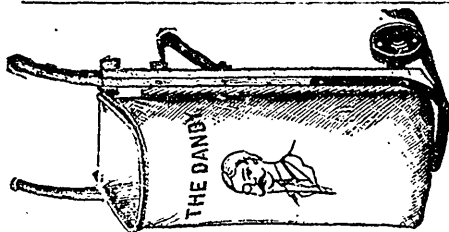
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