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THE



# CANADIAN

# Honey Producer.

Its Reading Columns for the advancement of Honey Producers exclusively.

Vol. 3.

BRANTFORD, JUNE, 1889.

No. 4.

## The Canadian Honey Producer,

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

Published Monthly, 40 cents per year.

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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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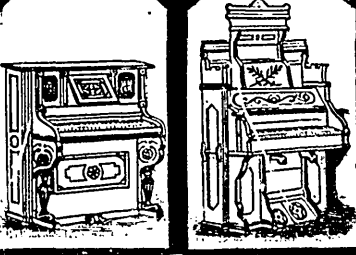
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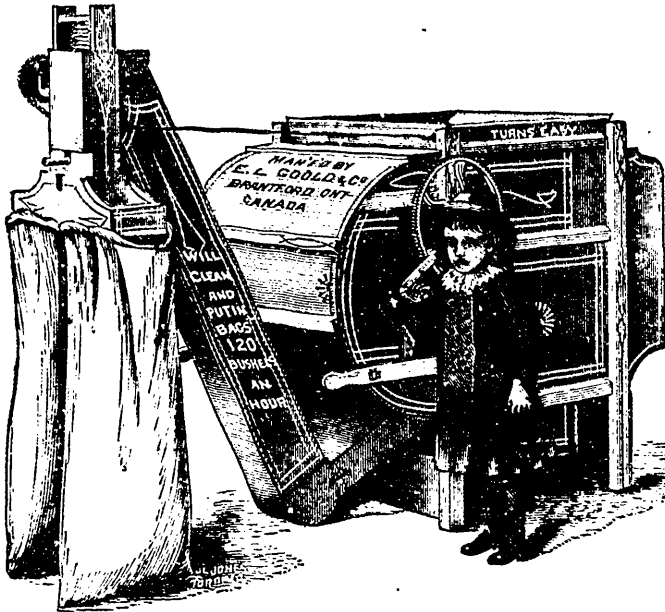
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## THE CANADIAN HONEY PRODUCER.

Vol. 3. June, 1889. No. 4

The scarcity of wax appears to indicate a material rise in the price of comb foundation before long.

We saw at Fisherville, the apiary of Mr. F. Mehlenbacher. Mr. Mehlenbacher has wintered well and is looking for a good honey season.

Mr. G. B. Jones, Toronto, has delivered several lectures upon the Honey Bee, and we understand with success. The subject is one which might well interest an intelligent audience.

We have received some printed matter which at the same time we are warned not to copy from. We trust the publisher will give us an advertisement so as to be able to reach the readers of the *Canadian Honey Producer*.

The beautiful weather up to the present, (May 13th,) has given us promise of an excellent honey season. Clover in this locality looks well and we believe it seeded fairly well in all but certain Townships in the Eastern part of Ontario and on heavy clay where it was too dry.

The price of sugar if maintained until Fall should give an increased demand for honey. Honey can be used in cooking and baking frequently to advantage, and bee-keepers should avail themselves of the present favorable opportunity to introduce it to the notice of housekeepers.

In answer to a remark in March Number of *Canadian Honey Producer* re. the puffing of certain goods and a certain individual, the party referred to writes in reply, seeking to vindicate his actions, stating that he does not

"puff" but simply does justice when writing. We pen this editorial for his benefit and now rest.

Our readers will notice in another column that an experiment will be conducted with chloroform to prevent swarming. Any of our readers who think they would care to undertake the work can secure blank forms by communicating with the party mentioned in the circular to which reference is made. We trust very many of our readers will take the trouble to assist in this simple and inexpensive test. Mr. Kirby it will be remembered first drew attention to the matter.

### Doolittle on Queen Rearing.

The work written by G. M. Doolittle and published by T. G. Newman & Son, 923 and 927 West Madison St., Chicago, Ills., is a credit to author and publishers. It is written in Mr. Doolittle's most pleasing style; modestly and simply does the author give us the results of his long and extensive experience. Any one wishing a book upon this branch of apiculture will do well to secure a copy. The price is \$1.00, post paid.

### OUR OWN APIARY.

On the evening of the 6th, we managed to spare a few minutes to examine our bees. They appeared to have done well; one we had to put an upper storey on, and the bees were in the top of it by morning. A nucleus wintered on three frames had taken possession of three combs, on the other side of the division board, and they occupied the six combs nicely. Surely there is nothing to prevent an excellent honey flow; clover is winter killed in very few localities, and here there is an abundance of white clover.

It is our intention to put our bees in a better locality in time for linden bloom, a locality also which will give better fall pasture, and we hope before winter to give an experience new to us,

The reason why we put upper stories on at this time is to give ample capacity for brood rearing and honey storing. No queen excluder is put between the two chambers, as we have no objection to allow all the brood rearing the bees may desire.

In this locality for the last four years there has been more than enough honey gathered by the bees to keep them going until clover blossom.

May 13th. Found brood and honey in first upper story, put upon the hives and spread brood where required, and put some more upper stories on the hive. They are doing well.

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### Swarming and Hiving Swarms.

DR. DUNCAN.

In a good honey season bees will swarm more or less in spite of all the surplus boxes, and extracting, but more when only supplied with sections; consequently each apiarian ought to be prepared; especially those who want to increase their stock of bees, each ought to be provided with a hiving bag, made as follows: get an iron ring made of a light half round iron rod about one foot and a half wide with a piece welded to one side of the ring about eight or ten inches long, with three holes to bolt it to a handle or long pole made of light wood, basswood. This ring ought to be at right angles with the pole when fastened. Sow on some good cotton to this ring to make a bag; when the pole is held straight up the bag hangs open, when a swarm lights on a limb raise your pole until the mouth of the bag is under the cluster, tap the limb with the iron, especially where fastened to the pole, and the swarm will drop into the bag, by pushing it out horizontally the mouth will close and you can carry your swarm to your empty hive or honey box, shake them out on the hiving sheets in front of the hive, raise up the edges over the hive until the bees commence to run in when you can easily tell by the hum they raise when the sheet may be laid down again.

All the difference in this hiving bag from all those I have seen in the Journals and Books is, it hangs open when the pole or handle is held perpendicular, the others were

held horizontal. It is convenient to have a few light boxes to catch the swarms in when the queen's wings are clipped which often saves a great deal of trouble. When I see a swarm coming out I get a queen cage and watch until I see the queen, place the mouth of the cage gently over the queen and she will invariably run up into it, close it by a plug of soft paper; when the swarm is all out or nearly so I cover the old hives with a sheet close to the ground, place an empty hiving box close up to the front of the hive with a loose bottom board by the cage with the queen right at the door-way; the swarm will soon begin to return and when they begin to light on the cage and start humming they will begin to cluster rapidly; take the plug out of the cage and you will have your swarm in the hiving box in a short time; carry the box to where your hive with foundation or comb is; place a hive cover on board, level with the bottom board of hive cover with a sheet; shake the swarm on this as close to the door of hive as possible, raise the out edges of the sheet over the hive and shake it, if the bees run up it; when they are well started running in, leave the sheet open and the job is done. As soon as the scattered bees alight or join the swarm remove the sheet from the old hive. It is necessary to cover the old to prevent the swarm going back, when they find they have no queen they very seldom cluster on a tree and if they do they will return to the old hive in about a quarter of an hour, when they find the old hive covered they very soon find the queen and go into the hiving box. This plan saves a great deal of heavy lifting, as some of the hives with the supers are too heavy for one person to move. If you don't want second swarms remove the queen cells about the seventh day, leaving one, or if you have a young queen remove them all and introduce a queen; this hive will be strong in bees and be able to go on with storing honey in a week as young bees are hatching every day. Second swarms are more apt to light higher up in trees if you have tall pine or spruce, but you can reach a very high limb by having a long light ladder and by adding another piece to the handle of the hiving bag by two rings or any other device. When a swarm lights on the trunk where they cannot be shaken off take your hiving box along and a

tin dipper, gently run the dipper up close to the bark of tree and the bees will slip into it, empty each dipper full into the box when you have the most of them set your box on a bottom board near by and if have the queen the rest will follow.

Embros, Ont

## SWARMING, DIVIDING, &c.

LACHLAN TAYLOR.

I promised to write how my bees came out of winter quarters. My loss has been very heavy, and all through my own fault. I opened the clamps on the 8th of April and found 12 colonies dead. The cause was the stoppage of the air pipes by mice nests. They have been down 3 years and ought to have been lifted last Fall, and better provision made against mice. They had abundance of feed; the frames are mostly full of honey, but all granulated in the comb, the others, excepting 2, are very strong, they seem to have changed the programme altogether this Spring. They had been breeding most all winter, on the 6th inst. drones were flying from several hives, and the bees are now clustering outside the hives making ready for swarming. They are building comb on top of frames and to the glass in honey board, and I must put on the supers. I have been getting the seeding done and they have been getting ahead of me altogether. I do not want to let them swarm if I can possibly help it.

The back numbers of *American Apiculturist* and *Cook's Manual* came to hand all right, much obliged. The article I referred to when I last wrote, you will find in the February No. 1886, C. H. P. It is headed A New System for the management of bees, written for the Michigan Convention by Dr. E. L. Tinker. My system is simply dividing vs. natural swarming. I take the strong colonies that are clustering at the entrance of the hive or showing a disposition to swarm, have a hive ready with foundation in all the frames, (my hives contain 9 frames.) I then take 4 frames of brood, the best from the colony to be divided, filling their place with 4, with foundation from the others, making sure that you do not take the queen from the old colony in the brood frames, and also that the brood is in the proper stage for

queen making unless you find a capped queen cell or have a queen ready to introduce to the new colony. Here I would state that I have come to the conclusion that every bee-keeper should rear his own queens to make bee-keeping a success. When I divided I picked one frame of brood unsealed. I could see a small white speck in each cell, I had no queens. Then I placed the new colony in division of clamp where the old hive was, and removed the old one to the farthest end of the clamps.

I believe that I can take a good colony of bees and extract as much or more honey from it than by any other method where natural swarming is adopted, although as a rule it is advocated in the Bee Journals. Yet I know that a great many practical bee-keepers do not adopt it; then why advocate natural swarming when they do not practice it. I argue that the more the bees swarm the less surplus honey will be given, and again the more you use the extractor the fewer swarms you will get, and both worked to excess may ruin the colony. Now I want both. Can any one give a good reason why I may not divide twice and get a good amount of surplus honey and leave the bees in good condition for winter, provided that the season be an average good one for bee pasture.

I had only two colonies that swarmed in June last year, these I divided again in August and I got 200 lbs. of honey from each of the two colonies. One of the June swarms was dead when opened, the others are the strongest colonies I have at present. Again I claim that by the method given, three birds can be killed with one stone. 1st, the bees can be kept at work all the time 2nd, you can get a fair increase of stock, and 3rd, if a queen breeder, the colony made by division is in good trim for cell building.

In regard to the best location for bee-keeping one writer in the C. H. P. claims that an old settled locality is the best, I do not agree with him in this matter. Our locality is only partly cleared, there are hundreds of acres of rocky land where the timber has been burned down, there are large swamps, acres of willows and soft maple and other honey producing shrubs, and the woods are full of basswood, and our fields and burns produce dandelions, whiteclover, cottonweed, goldenrod and in



such a season as the past one the lying lumber and undergrowth in the burns protects the plants from being dried up by drought, and again there are thousands of cords of maple and sawlogs cut in winter, the stumps afford feed for the bees in early spring. In the early part of last month, April I counted as many as twenty-two bees on one stump, and around us there are perhaps 200 acres of stumps left from trees cut last winter. We have had a very good spring here for bees since let out. Mine might have been opened early with profit.

Clavering, P. O., May 14th.

Friend Taylor, we do not think dividing is practised as generally as you think. It has rapidly gone into disfavor. Of course the season will influence how often you can permit dividing or increase. We should like to hear briefly why every man should rear his own queens, but remember we are going to object every time. Why would you not rear queens in full strong colonies—do you not think generally they are better.—ED.

*For the Canadian Honey Producer.*

## WORK AND EXPERIENCE.

G. W. DEMAREE.

The past winter has been the mildest for many years past. My bees are now working on the bloom of cabbages that have stood in the open garden all winter without the slightest protection.

The Spring however, has been too dry, attended with too frequent drying winds to be favorable to the bees. Fruit bloom gave not enough honey to keep brood rearing going lively, hence our bees are not strong at this writing.

May 8th.—Locust is now opening its bloom, and no doubt our bees will soon be busily engaged bringing in the precious nectar. Black Locust hardly ever fails to give our bees a rich harvest, short but rich in results.

Last season was so poor that great loss in wintering has been the result. Starvation has been the fate of hundreds of good colonies in Kentucky.

CONTRACTION AS A SYSTEM.

In the hands of the expert a system of contraction properly applied gives good results if

everything is propitious. But the system is dangerous in the hands of the novice and very many beginners will be injured by the "all is not gold that glitters."

SLAT HONEY BOARDS.

I have discarded slat honey boards. They are no good to keep the queen in her place below the surplus and their meanness to get off and on the hive overbalances all their good points.

THE PERFORATED EXCLUDERS

Are never used in my apiary after once trying them thoroughly, except to keep the queen out of the extracting supers. They are very useful in this place, but they are out of place when put under section cases.

A thoroughly good article of honey cannot be taken with the extractor from combs containing unsealed brood, for the reason that more or less of thin, raw nectar is likely to be stored for immediate use in close proximity to the brood. This thin raw, nectar is sure to injure the flavor and saving qualities of the honey with which it becomes mixed. For this reason I use the perforated excluder to keep the queen in her own apartment.

A CHEAP AND EASY WAY TO HIVE SWARMS.

Have the queen's wings clipped. Let the bees go through the motion of swarming and have them to return on account of missing the queen. Now at your leisure, remove all the frames of brood from the hive, shaking off nearly all the bees, and let them run into the hive, give them a set of empty combs or frames filled with foundation, and you have the entire swarm with all stragglers hived on the old stand. The combs of brood with the few adhering bees are placed in a new hive and given a new location in the apiary. The section cases or extracting supers as the case may be, are given to the swarm immediately if an excluder is used, and if not, I wait about three days before I put on the surplus.

This plan saves the heated rush of doing the work while the swarm is on the wing.

Christiansburg, K'y, U. S.

*For the Canadian Honey Producer.*

## SPRING DWINDLING.

HENRIETTA F. BULLER.

In his letter in the April No. of *Canadian Honey Producer*, R. W. R. says, "If any one

We regret to announce owing to the printer neglecting to correct proof, the following mistakes have to be corrected, viz. :

Page 65, second column, third line, *let the matter* should follow the word *now*.

Page 69, second column, BUFFALO INTERNATIONAL FAIR, September 4th to 14th, should be inserted at the head of the list of Prizes offered.

could tell me how to prevent early spring flying in the sunny days of March I should be much pleased." I will suggest to him next Spring to try leaving the entrances of his hives open the full width but shading them so that the sun's rays do not strike the entrance. In wintering out of doors I leave the entrances open the full width even in the coldest weather and also in the Spring but protect them from the sun and also from the snow by a storm porch.

Campbellford, Ont.

For *The Canadian Honey Producer*.

**REPORT AND PROSPECT.**

WM. DALES.

My bees are booming, they have come through the winter in splendid condition, they are healthy and strong in number. I gave them a thorough overhauling on the 15th of April and found them dry and nice (and all with plenty of brood) and very few dead bees. I put them back into their winter quarters again and will leave them there until settled warm weather. I winter on the summer stands which I will explain at a future time. We had a very poor honey season in this section last year, and I am afraid that it will not be much better this year as the white clover is considerably winter killed. I noticed my bees bringing in pollen on April 15th and was very busy until a few days ago. The weather has been very cold and rainy, and they have been quiet for a few days. I take *The Canadian Honey Producer*, it is very spicy and to the point—there is a lot of good information in it, and it should be on every Bee-Keepers' table.

Chesley, Bruce Co., April 29th, 1889.

**Bureau of Industries and Arts.**

**BEEES AND HONEY.**—The winter was favorable to bees, and a number of apiarists claim to have brought their stock through without the loss of a single colony. Others place the mortality at from 10 to 30 per cent. Very little loss from disease is reported. Mention is made of a few cases of dysentery, but the greater part of the fatalities resulted from lack of stores. A few correspondents report the destruction of odd colonies by mice. The

bees came out in good condition early in the season and at once started to carry pollen, but the latter part of April was bleak and cold, and drove them back into winter quarters. The past two summers have given a set-back to bee-keeping, and many have gone out of the business on that account, but those who have continued in the industry feel much encouraged with the condition of their colonies at the present time.

**Honey and Apiary Department.**

O. L. HERSHISER, SUPERINTENDENT.

Exhibitors will not be allowed to remove honey from their exhibit during the Fair, but may sell from a reserved supply, for which no charge will be made.

Exhibitors who sell honey, must enclose it securely in paper or cartons.

Honey exhibited or sold must be this season's crop, and all honey must be the produce of the exhibitor.

Exhibits competing for a single premium cannot be included in a display.

Colonies of bees must be exhibited so as to be readily seen on at least two sides.

A breach of these rules will forfeit all premiums that may be awarded and the right to exhibit the following year.

**Premium**

Number.	Class 70.	1st,	2nd,	3rd.
1352	Display of comb honey, largest and most attractive, .....	\$30	\$15	\$8
1353	Display of extracted honey largest and most attractive, 30	15	8	
1354	Sample of comb honey, not less than 25 pounds in shape for retailing, .....	10	5	3
1355	Sample of extracted honey, not less than 25 pounds, in best shape for retailing, ...	10	5	3
1356	Display of comb honey by a lady, .....	15	5	
1357	Display of extracted honey by a lady, .....	15	5	
1358	Largest collection of samples of different kinds of honey from any source, .....	15	8	
1359	Display of beeswax, largest and most attractive, .....	20	10	

1360 Sample of beeswax, not less than 10 pounds, the produce of the exhibitor,....	\$6	3
1361 Honey vinegar, not less than one gallon, displayed in glass,.....	6	3
1362 Assortment of honey candies,	6	3
1363 Display of pastry made with honey,.....	10	5
1364 Assortment of fruits preserved in honey,.....	6	3
1365 Colony of Italian bees in observatory hive,.....	10	5
1366 Colony of Syrian bees in observatory hive,.....	10	5
1367 Colony of Cyprian bees in observatory 'hive,.....	10	5
1368 Colony of Carniolan bees in observatory hive,.....	10	5
1369 Best collection of queen bees, not less than one dozen, in such shape as to be easily seen,.....	20	10
1370 Collection of honey producing plants, properly named, pressed and mounted or in bloom,.....	15	8
1371 Display of comb foundation, both brood and surplus, made on the grounds, quality to be considered,.....	20	10
1372 Sample foundation for brood chamber, quality to be considered,.....	10	5
1373 Sample foundation for surplus, quality to be considered,.....	10	5
1374 Largest and most complete line of bee-keepers' supplies, exhibited by manufacturer, quality of workmanship to be considered. Society's large Silver Medal.		
1375 Best bee hive for comb honey.....		Diploma.
1376 Best bee hive for extracted honey,.....		Diploma.
1377 Best bee hive for all purposes—Diploma & Medal.		

Competent Judges will carefully examine and pass upon any new and meritorious improvement or invention and make such honorary awards as they may deem just.

*Gleanings in Bee Culture.*

**How to Drive Ants out of Bee-Hives.—Manum's Method.**

HOW TO USE THE MANUM SWARM-CATCHER.

June 1.—“Mr. Manum, what shall we work at to-day? We have got the sections all filled with foundation, the new hives nailed and painted, and I can't think of anything more to do here.”

“Well, Leslie, I have heard you and the other boys talking about going trout-fishing when you got the work done. It is now done and I propose we all go to-day. While Fred and I are hunting up the fish-tackling, you boys may get the bait: and to-morrow we will work at the bees.”

JUNE 2.

“Here we are, Will. To-day we are to see that the queens are all laying well; and where we find any with only 10 or 11 combs we will give them more, as I think they are all strong enough now to cover the 12 combs. However, if you find any that are not, we will run them through the season with what they have, unless we give them a card of brood from a very strong colony that is liable to swarm before we come here again; also see that they have honey enough to last a week or ten days. Be sure not to forget that, because this is the trying time with the bees, it being the period between fruit and raspberry bloom. The bees are rearing so much brood now that they use up stores very fast, and the bees that will hatch in the next 20 days are just the bees we want to gather our surplus; hence it won't do to starve them now. We will now fill these carrying boxes with combs containing honey, and take them along with us to save steps.”

“Here, Mr. Manum, I wish you would look into this hive.”

“Oh! ants! and a lot of them too! Well, just wait a moment while I go to the honey-house. There, I will put some of this tarred paper in the hive, and by to-morrow every ant will be gone. This is the simplest remedy I ever tried. Now, as there are no more combs with honey in we shall have to put on sections partly filled with honey, left over from last fall, wherever they need feeding. It makes it pretty handy to have these partly filled sections on hand. We will just uncap

the honey, and by the time we are here again the honey will all be below, and then the sections can be taken off."

JUNE 6.

"Now, boys, I noticed yesterday that the raspberries were beginning to blossom, and I think it is time you should go to your respective yards. Fred will take two of you to your yards. Leslie will go to his by the railroad, and I will go with Scott to his yard. (Henry has a family, and lives near his yard.) Here we are, Scott. You will board with Mr. Smith while here."

Scott says, "Mr. Manum, I wish you would lay out some work for me to do while I am waiting for swarming."

"Work! you will find there is work enough before the season is over. In the first place you should examine every swarm, to see if any of them need anything. You may find some that have lost their queen, as there are a few three-year-old queens in this yard; and you know some of them are not full of comb and where you find such, if they are pretty strong, and the queen laying well, you can spread the brood-nest and insert a comb in the center. It will be safe to spread now at this season."

"What shall I do if I find any that are queenless?"

"You will find that such colonies have queen-cells, and if the bees are pure and large, with long wings, and the stripes—or bands—instead of being light yellow are of a yellowish-brown, you may leave one to hatch, but if they are not pure Italians, or if the bands are of a bright yellow, or if the bees are small-bodied and short-winged, you may cut the cells out and give them eggs from one of those hives we have marked to breed from.

Light-yellow bees may answer in the South, where the climate is more mild than here, but here in the North I find that the dark, or leather-colored bees, are preferable, hence I do not breed from very light-colored queens.

"Now when you give such a colony a card of eggs for queen-cells you should cut holes in the comb the shape of an inverted  $\Delta$ , or, more properly, an equilateral triangle, with the point upward" Mr. Manum," says Scott, "the books nearly all say that a long slit should be cut in the combs. Why is this triangle shape better?"

"Because it does not weaken the combs so much as a long slit does; and, besides, I think the bees prefer to build cells on a nearly perpendicular edge rather than on a horizontal one. Probably by the time these cells are old enough to transfer, you may need queen-cells in some other hive, or you can use them in your queen-rearing nuclei.

"After you have looked the bees over, the next thing to do will be to level up all the hives, as they are liable to get out of level during the winter. It is important that they be perfectly level; for unless they are, you will be bothered to get straight combs in the sections.

"When you have done that you will want to clean up the yard. Here is a rake, a hoe, a shovel, and a basket. I like to see a yard kept clean during the working season at least. You can then mix some paint, and paint such hives as need it. Should there be a rainy day you can fasten foundation in the brood-frames. I don't like to fasten it in at home, as it is apt to break down when transporting it over our rough roads; and besides, I want work for the boys to do rainy days, or you would get lonesome."

"Well, Mr. Manum," says Scott, "you were right when you said I should have work enough to do. I think I should not have time to get lonesome—ha, ha!" "Now I must go. I shall call on you in three or four days; and after you have learned how to hive bees after my method I shall come only once a week; I aim to visit each yard once a week, hence I have to visit two some days, as I have eight yards, and there are only seven days in one of our Vermont weeks. Now, if I should happen to visit you on Sunday, please don't ever mention it so Mr. Root will hear of it, for he would surely give me a talking-to, and I know I could never stand his reprimand. Good-bye."

JUNE 15, AT CATON APLARY.

"Good-morning, Will! How are the bees doing here?"

"Pretty well for the last two days. Yesterday the scale-hive gained 6 lbs."

"If that is the case, some of the hives must be ready for the boxes. Let us open some and see. Yes, this one ought to have boxes on at once. You see, every comb is full of brood or pollen, and some honey; and as

you see, every cell from which a bee has hatched is full of new honey and bits of new comb built on the upper edges of the frames. This indicates that more room is needed. You may get a clamp of sections for this hive, also a sheet of enameled cloth to cover it with."

"One of your clamps, Mr. Manum, will not cover the brood-chamber; do you not want two clamps?"

"No, I put on only one clamp at first; and after four or five days, if the honey continues to come in, you may put on another."

"Do you like such small clamps as well as whole clamps that cover the whole hive?"

"Yes, for several reasons. First, they are much nicer to handle in the apiary and in the honey-house. In the next place, if I used large clamps holding 32 one-pound sections instead of clamps that hold only 16 sections, they would be larger than the bees ought to have at this time. It would be giving too much room at first, and again, at the close of the honey season I find it very convenient to taper off with these small clamps. There, I place it on the further side of the hive from me; now cover the clamp with the enameled cloth, black side down, and lay the half honey-board under the hive where it will be out of the way until it is wanted after the honey season is over. "There is a swarm coming out!"

"Where?"

"From No. 60; get me the swarm-catcher and I will show you how I do it. There, open the catcher-cage and hold it to the entrance and catch as many bees as you can and close it; lay it down and watch for the queen; as she is clipped, she can't fly. There she is. Now I take her and put her in this little round pocket-cage that has a small wire hook to it, and hang this cage outside the catcher. It would be as well to put the queen right in the catcher; but in doing so some of the bees would escape; and, besides, by having the queen in this small cage she can be handled better than in the large catcher cage. Now I see the swarm is circling over the north side of the yard. I take the catcher and set it up directly under the swarm, and leave them to themselves and go about putting on boxes as before, at the same time keeping an eye on the swarm. As I have explained to you how to hive the bees, it is not necessary that I repeat it, for I see you hived those

six swarms yesterday all right. The next time I come I will show you about tiering up the clamps, preventing second swarms, coning, etc.

"Now one word before I go. Be sure to keep a close lookout for swarms, because it is much easier to get the queen as she comes out of the hive than to hunt for her if she gets in the grass; and, besides, the sooner you get the catcher set up, the more likely you will be to catch the swarm and prevent clustering in a tree or returning to the hive. Hence when you see a swarm coming out, hurry to it at once. Yes, run if you are a slow walker."

A. E. MANUM.

Bristol, Vermont.

### Comb Foundation for Sections.

Lately we came across notes which we took at the North American Bee-Keepers' Convention when held at Rochester some years ago. The following discussion took place, the question being:

When we as bee-keepers cry down adulteration, are we working to our interests, when we use full sheets of foundation in our surplus boxes, especially 7 or 8 feet to the pound—are not we ourselves running our markets? I would not make it more than 8 feet to the lb.

Mr. J. B. Hall—I tried thin to my detriment and now prefer it 8 feet if properly made. If 10 feet to the pound it is too hard pressed, if not so hard pressed the bees thin it. He only had one complaint and that was from a dealer, he made the foundation touch all around except at the bottom, from which it was  $\frac{1}{8}$  in.

Mr. Vandeuzen at first opposed the use of foundation in sections but it was then heavy, it was now lighter and he had fallen in with the idea. He got better sections, handsomer and more honey, but he found the honey had a lighter specific gravity.

Mr. Benedict—I do not make my own foundation. I find fish bone irrespective of hard or soft wall. There are times when the bees will not thin it; I want nothing less than 10 feet to the pound, and prefer 12 feet.

Mr. Hall—I give the bees a chance to thin out the base, do not crowd with honey and the bees will thin it and will have more than half enough wax to draw out the walls.

Mr. W. E. Clarke—I have heard the

matter of pressure discussed, and the decision has been that wax is not pressed hard any more than water. There are times when the bees will not thin the foundation but I never hear any complaint of fish bone except at conventions.

Mr. Benedict—I would never use less than 10 feet to the lb. I have tried full sheets, half sheets and starters and I find the half sheets will be filled just as fast as the full sheets.

Mr. Pettit.—I think this matter of fish bone is more prejudice than reality; he was judge at the Western Fair and said he would not give a prize on comb honey with foundation, but found he could not tell the honey. I have been judge four years at Toronto and there it is never taken into consideration.

Mr. Barber—I furnish comb honey for Boston market. There is never anything said there about fish bone.

Mr. Vandervort—There were five lots in a car, four with foundation, one without, the latter was less uniform and inferior for sale purposes.

Mr. Peete—We cannot afford to lay aside foundation, but we want it fresh.

Mr. Vandervort—He always claimed he could tell honey on comb foundation but this summer his helper fooled him five or six times. He wanted it 11 ft. to the pound and the sections filled within  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. from the bottom.

S. M. Loche—Had found a tough comb after squeezing honey out of it, this was the result of comb foundation.

C. C. Vandeuzen.—Order the foundation thin even if the bottoms of cells are punched out. Some one suggested to place the sections with foundation in the hive to thin out.

We have yet to see any difference in comb foundation fresh and that made for some time, provided it is not exposed to the light. How is it if wax undergoes a change so readily that it may be found thousands of years old in tombs, &c. The Rochester convention was an excellent one and we wonder how many from New York State will be at Brantford this winter.—Ed.

### Spring Session of Oxford Bee-Keepers' Association, held May 21st.

The meeting being called to order by the President, Mr. Goodger, at 10.30 a. m., the ordinary business of reading minutes, &c., was disposed of. After due and thoughtful deliberation regarding the disposal of Government Grant, &c., in furthering the interests of bee-keeping in this part of the province, the following resolution was unanimously carried: Moved by Martin Emeigh, seconded by Dr. Duncan, and resolved, That this Association Grant, \$50.00 for prizes on honey and bees-wax, to be competed for at the Fall show or shows, (Oxford being divided,) and that J. B. Hall, Mr. Martin and Wm. Goodger be a committee to confer with the North and South Oxford Agricultural Societies and make arrangements with either or both of them as the committee think advisable. Prize lists and regulations will appear in due time, and it is hoped that all bee-keepers in this vicinity at least, will put forth every endeavor to make bee-keeping worthy of a position among the natural industries of Oxford. The Exhibition in this line will be open to universal competition, subject to the Agricultural Society's regulations. A number of practical honey producers of the province were recommended, from whom to select a Judge.

It was decided very unanimously and good humoredly that the whole crowd be a delegation to meet with the International B. K. Association to be held in Brantford.

The fixing of the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, 18th of Dec., closed the business part of the session.

*Questions and Answers* by members. What is the original color of bees-wax? White, unanimously. What makes wax yellow? Fine particles of propolis, bee-bread, dust from bee's feet, cocoon shells and stain from dark honey, by members. How can these substances be removed from wax so as to leave it perfectly white? This question was not easily nor satisfactory answered. It was suggested that this question be asked and answered in the *Honey Producer*.

The next question was asked by a member who, last fall, destroyed his bees in order to

stamp out *foul brood* in his vicinity. How and when would you commence keeping bees in a district in which bees have been ravaged by *foul brood*? Dr. Duncan, J. B. Hall, J. E. Frith and Mr. Pettit, thought that it would be well to test the place by a medium strong colony immediately after apple bloom when honey is scarce, and if there were no signs of *foul brood* by clover bloom it would be comparatively safe to put ten to twenty-five colonies into the field. If *foul brood* appeared, destroy the colony and test again in the fall in a similar way. These answers were based on the assumption that there were no bees except wild ones in the woods, within a radius of three miles. This question and answer drew forth a deep and earnest desire by all present that *foul brood* should come under the quarantine laws of our country.

The experience of nearly all the members was that bees used up more stores during the winter just past than during more severe seasons. Why was this? Mr. Hall and Martin Emeigh thought that there were a number of reasons. Honey was very scarce last season, hence bees stopped breeding very early, the result being old bees. This together with a mild winter caused colonies to rear brood, more or less, consequently consuming more stores.

Why were bees in many localities more uneasy than in other seasons? Ans. Same as that to preceding question. The questions and answers regarding ventilation were "chessnutty" and void of any new information.

How would you deal with damp repositories? Mr. Pettit found by practical experience that bees, each colony, going into damp repositories must be well and closely covered so that the hive be kept warm inside. This makes a considerable difference in temperature between inside and outside of hives. The expanded air inside the hive absorbs the moisture, while the compressed air outside causes a deposit of damp on the walls of repository. A constant flow of fresh air through sub-earth ventilation helped matters very much in such cases.

Honey gathering bees should be reared from queens of what age? Some thought that queens should be one year old and some thought that queens of two years of age produced better gatherers. The question was

thought worthy of ventilation through the Bee Journals.

Are bees inclined to be more restless and uneasy under acute contraction? Yes, it is very unnatural for bees to be squeezed into close breeding quarters. This question elicited the following conclusion; that bees under all circumstances should be kept as free from irritation as possible.

Prognostications of coming crop was indulged in with considerable caution, but all had hope that the present would be a good one. Meeting adjourned to meet in December.

J. E. FRITH, Sec'y.

The following circular has been received:  
**Experiments in Apiculture.**

Brantford, May 15th, 1889.

DEAR SIR:—

The Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union have taken up experiments in Apiculture. The desirability of securing a method which will prevent swarming and at the same time not lessen the honey crop, is so great that any experiment in this direction will doubtless meet with the approval of beekeepers at large and hearty co-operation on their part. Chloroforming bees when under swarming impulse has been experimented with slightly and apparently with a measure of success to prevent swarming. The colony is to be treated as follows: A colony which has queen cells started and will apparently swarm, is to be treated with chloroform and results noted as per list of questions. Another colony is to have the swarm returned and treated. More colonies may be treated, numbering 1, 2, 3, etc. A sponge with some drops of chloroform upon it may be inserted into the nozzle of the smoker and the fumes of the drug driven in at the entrance of the hive or under the quilt the same as smoke. When the bees are in such a condition that they will not fly from the combs when the hive is severely jarred, the process is complete and no more chloroform need be given. The results will be given to each experimenter at the close of the season and you are invited to assist in the work and fill out list of questions, sending them to R. F. Holtermann, Brantford, Ont., by Sept. 1st.

Kindly let him know at once if you will undertake the experiment.

Yours very truly,

E. A. RENNIE.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.



### Answers to Queries for June.

No. 70. Is honey injured by being stored in cells from which successive generations of young bees have emerged?

I always prefer mine in virgin comb.—Will M. Barnum, Angelica, N. Y.

No.—A. B. Mason, Auburndale, Ohio.

Honey is not injured by being stored in old comb, old comb is the best for extracting, it does not break so readily.—Dr. Duncan, Embro, Ont.

I think not.—Dr. C. C. Miller, Maringo, Ills.

No, and for extracting purposes, such comb is better than new, as it can be more safely handled.—J. E. Pond, No. Attleboro.

No.—R. L. Taylor, Lapeer, Mich.

There is no evidence that it is, so far as I know.—Dr. Tinker, Ohio.

No.—A. D. Allan, Tamworth, Ont.

It may be discolored.—Rev. D. P. Niven, Deomore, Ont.

I think not.—C. W. Post, Murray, Ont.

No, I do not think so.—R. H. Shipman, Cannington, Ont.

Honey is not injured by being stored in old brood comb.—Frank A. Eaton, Bluffton, Ohio.

Yes, it will be a darker color than if from new comb.—W. Couse, Streetsville, Ont.

I do not think it is, if the combs are clean and well preserved tho' I always fancy having clean new comb for the top stores if I want a first class article in the way of honey.—Miss H. F. Buller.—Campbellford, Ont.

No. I never thought so.—Will Ellis, St. Davids, Ont.

We think not, the color may possibly be effected a little.—Ed.

No. 71. Does it pay better to buy an Italian colony in 8 or 10 frame Langstroth hive of average strength, or a box hive of average strength and black bees and transfer and Italianize them? I raise my own queens. Time of purchase of colonies May 1st. Price of the latter, \$4.50, of the former, \$7.00.

If you can get a strong colony of Italian bees, in L. hive, for \$5, I should consider it the most economical.—Will M. Barnum.

Buy the Italian colony in L. hive.—A. B. Mason.

If you are an expert at transferring, it would be cheaper to buy the box hive, if not buy the frame hive. Much depends on the quality of the comb in the box hive, you cannot examine the inside but in the frame one you can, therefore you better buy the latter.—Dr. Duncan.

I expect you had better get them in the Langstroth.—Dr. C. C. Miller.

Buy in the frames by all means; time and money will both be saved by so doing.—J. E. Pond.

Circumstances are so different no safe answer can be given in a word. If you have experience decide for yourself, if you have not buy the box hive and get the experience. R. L. Taylor.

If a man has nothing else that will pay better to do, it will pay to buy the box hive at the stated conditions, but the transferring should be done as follows: Prepare a brood chamber with frames half filled with heavy brood foundation sheets 6 inches wide will not need to be wired, if the frames are shallow frames. Place a wood-zinc honey board on the brood chamber and a slatted frame work for the support of the box hive above the honey board. As soon as the season for honey opens and the colony becomes strong, drum them out and secure the queen. Place the box hive in position and hive the bees and queen into the prepared brood chamber. A drone trap should be attached to the box hive to catch the drones and any virgin bees that may issue. At the end of twenty one days remove the box hive, drum out the bees, extract the honey and transfer such combs as are valuable. Italianize at any time seven days after the brood chamber is given; but it will of course be easier done after the box hive is removed.—Dr. Tinker.

Buy the L. hive and Italian bees if you prefer that hive.—A. D. Allan.

Buy the Italian Colony.—Rev. D. P. Niven. It will pay better to buy Italians at \$7.00—C. W. Post.

Buy Italian bees in Langstroth hives.—Robt. H. Shipman.

It would pay best to buy the Italians if the price were \$10.00. I answer from experience.—Frank A. Eaton.

Yes, I would buy the colony in frame hive. W. Couse.

If you buy only to add to your number understand transferring and have Italian bees to raise your own queens from, it would be cheaper to buy the box hives at \$4.50.—Miss H. F. Buller.

You bet it does. A lot of old crooked combs and bees (remember you are going to destroy the queen,) for \$4.50. Eight good

combs and frames, bees Italian queen, bottom board, cover and body. The Langstroth hive is worth two or three box hives. Stick a pin there brother.—Will Ellis.

Buy the colony in Langstroth hive every time in preference.—Ed.

No. 72. I have three colonies to start the season of 1889 with. I want to make the largest possible sure returns out of them, how shall I do it?

Purchase a good Standard Bee Book ; subscribe for two or three good Journals and go to work. If I was the owner of an "extractor" I should run for extracted honey. If not, for A No. 1 comb. Allow one swarm each.—Will M. Barnum.

Put them in the best location, take the best and most intelligent care of them, secure the surplus in the best shape and sell it in the best market for the best price. If you want the best answer get "Langstroth on honey bee" as revised by the Dadants, "Cook's Manual," and the "A. B. C. in Bee Culture," and study them faithfully and put their teaching into practice.—A. B. Mason.

If you only want honey give them plenty of room to store, and keep them from swarming, but if you want both honey and increase let them swarm o. ce.—Dr. Duncan.

Goodness! Read all the pages written about it and then maybe you'll make a wrong guess as to the best for you to do.—Dr. C. C. Miller.

To answer this question properly would require several pages, read up on the subject in some of the text books and back numbers of the "Producer."—J. E. Pond.

What kind of returns? In a general way I should say let each cast one swarm only, and give section room to each during the entire honey season.—R. L. Taylor.

If honey is desired, practice the new management published in the "Honey Producer," allowing an increase of one colony if all three should swarm. If an interval of nine days intervenes between the time the first colony swarms and the last, extract the honey from the first brood chamber to cast a swarm and hive the third swarm into it and place on a new stand. Then after seven days destroy all queen cells but one in the hive from which the last swarm issued. This management will give the largest surplus it is possible to obtain.—Dr. Tinker.

Run them for extracted honey.—A. D. Allan.

Let them swarm once and prevent further issues (*a la Heddon*) and put surplus on both old and new colonies.—D. P. Niven.

You don't say whether you want any increase or whether it is comb or extracted honey you are after. My plan for both honey and increase are as follows: I would run for extracted honey and tier up to prevent swarming and about the 15th of June I would make two nuclei from each colony and build them up to good strong colonies. Don't attempt to raise your own queens, if you have but three to start with in this case, try the virgins, and introduce them the day after you form the nuclei. With the above plan you will get the honey if there is any, and be more sure of your increase than if you depended on swarming.—C. W. Post.

If you can sell bees by the pound or colonies in the fall, raise queens and try artificial swarming, increasing as rapidly as possible. If you have no market for bees buy some empty combs, or failing which foundation on wired frames and run them for extracted honey.—Robt. H. Shipman.

It would be impossible to answer your query intelligently without knowing your ability, location, and pasture.—Frank A. Eaton.

If you would sell your three colonies for cash that would be about the surest way of realizing on them.—W. Couse.

It would take too much space to tell you here. If you have no good book on apiculture get one and study up the subject for yourself. Take a bee paper also.—H. F. Buller.

Put sections on the old stands until they swarm, then put the sections on the swarms, then run the old stands for extracted honey. How does this hit you?—Will Ellis.

Sell them at \$10.00 each, (hope we are wrong.) Failing that run them for extracted honey, use shade board, ventilate hives, have two supers for each to catch best honey flow and leave them plenty of honey for winter.—Ed.

### Too late for last Issue.

No. 67.—Some bee-keepers advise setting them on the same stands when you take them out of the cellar as they occupied the previous season but I have never done so and I have not been able to discover any bad result in consequence of setting them on different stands.—Miss H. F. Buller.

No. 68.—I do not! Because the ordinary run of bee-keepers without special instructions would be less likely to introduce a virgin queen successfully than a laying queen. I believe that different conditions of the colony are requisite in introducing virgin queens and those that are fertile.—Miss H. F. Buller.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## REPORTS.

Morpeth, April 8th, 1889.

Out of 27 colonies lost only one, it was queenless.

H. PARKER.

Tillsonburg, March 25, 1889.

Here gentlemen you will find 40 cents for the C. H. P. Bees here were bringing in polen on Sunday 24th. Beat that who can?

ROBERT J. YOUNG.

Edmonton, May 15th, 1889.

GENTS.—Yours of 2nd inst. to hand requesting an account of bees this spring. Would say the three colonies I placed in cellar last November came out all right, strong and healthy. I gave them a fly the 28th of Feb'y and returned them to cellar same day. Set them out on the 1st day of April. They had drones flying on the 9th of May and one of the stocks is now working strong in super having made and filled 3 combs. I used double walled hives for 2 stocks and the same hive for one, (an after swarm) that I received the bees from you in. The L. hive required a much higher temperature to keep it dry, than did the double walled hives.

Yours,

J. KNOWLES.

I put bees out rather early, 23rd of March, as they appeared to be restless. They are in good condition and strong although short of stores and have been feeding them. Hope we will have a good season this year.

F. M. NICHOLSON.

Parkdale, May 1st, 1889.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that my 32 colonies of bees, 24 in bee house and 8 packed in saw dust outside, all came out alive and most of them strong, though several were very short of honey. I have had to do more feeding this Spring than in all the 6 years I have kept bees put together. They were as well supplied with honey as usual when they went into winter quarters, or at any rate when I prepared them in the Fall, but my bee house is small for the number of colonies I put into it, and the winter being so unusually mild I could not keep the temperature much below 48°, and suppose this was the cause of a greater consumption of stores than usual. Those out of doors wintered exceptionally well.

HENRIETTA F. BULLER.

I give you my report for last season which is not very encouraging. The previous season also being very dry, killed out the alsike clover, neither can we expect honey from alsike this season for the same reason, and

last seasons prospects prevented me from increasing much. I only increased from 100 to 130 colonies. Took only 50 lbs. of honey and had to feed the bees \$80 worth of best granulated sugar for wintering; of these 130 colonies put into winter quarters two died in the home cellar and one at the Castor apiary cellar. The two former should not have gone into winter quarters, one being very weak and the other I found had an unfertile queen and the third had evidently consumed all their winter stores, rearing brood.

I put the bees out from the 8th till the 17th of April. Pollen was gathered the first day any were put out. They have also gathered a little honey since and we hope this will be a good season for bee-keepers. And now I have a question for your query department: Supposing the bee-keepers' honey for last season cost him \$10 00 per lb., what price should he receive for the coming crop should he have 100 lbs. per colony.

H. COUSE.

Cheltenham, April 29th, 1889.

Friend Couse's report is not a very bright one, but we do not think clover generally is bad, and the beautiful Spring has made the most of what we had. We would not undertake to answer the question as to what the price should be but if crops are good generally the prices of honey will probably be fair as the price does not depend alone upon the supply but the ability of those who consume to purchase, and then sugar is very high, granulated wholesale being nearly 10c. per lb. This should help honey.—  
ED.

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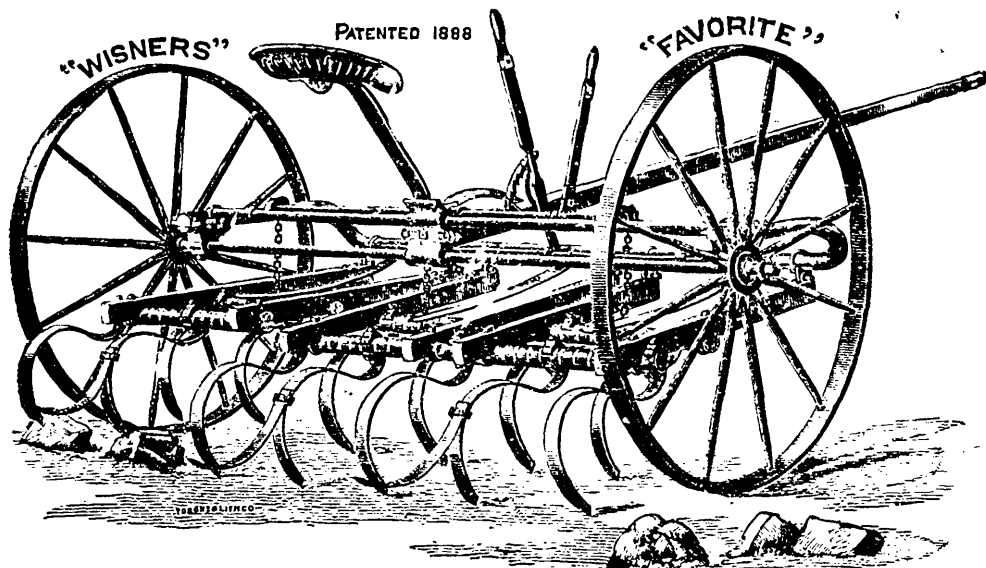
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