

COMMUNICATIONS.

The Canadian Bee Journal, Brantford, Ont. :

GENTLEMEN,—We hand you below a report as to the condition of our honey market, and will favor you with same regularly, as we note a change.

Honey this year is being placed on the market earlier than last season, but the demand is restricted, and will be light until small fruits are out of the market, and with the prospect of a large crop buyers will be particular as to quality, and the best will find ready sale upon arrival. No. 1 comb, 16c.; extracted, as to quality, 5 to 7c.; beeswax, 22 to 24c. We extend to all bee-keepers who visit the city an invitation to call on us, likewise to make use of our office, in care of which they can have their mail addressed, and from which they can write their letters. Hotel accommodations secured.

We hand you herewith stamped envelope for response, advising how often you desire these quotations.

Respectfully,
S. T. FISH & Co.

Chicago, Aug. 4, 1893.

LOWBANKS, Aug. 11—We have one ton of nice thick extracted clover honey and eight hundred finished sections. I notice in *Gleanings* that you have bought the *Canadian Bee Journal*. We have not been taking that publication for the last year and a-half, but will commence again now. Please let me know what the subscription price will be from now to the end of 1894. Basswood did not yield much in this locality, but clover was grand.

ILA MICHENER.

PAKENHAM, Ont.—I send you this morning a sample of bees. I always took a pride in bees, so the folks at home gave me a box. I believe the box was almost full of honey when I got it last fall, and there must have been over a gallon of bees. They all died during the winter and left about 10 pounds of good honey. When I got them I put them in the cellar, and as it was very cold I watched them closely and found out that they were dying. I would lift the hive and take out a cupfull of dead bees every few days. Thinking they were too cold I took them upstairs and put them in a cool, dark room, but they continued to dwindle away. There came a few warm days, and they began to get wild, so I again put them in the cellar to quiet them down. A few days later I found more dead, and I

again put them upstairs, fearing the dampness, and in a couple of days they were all gone. Every one dead. They kept dropping off no matter where I put them. I noticed if any of them got out on the wall or window that they left dirty stains often as large as a pea. It seemed to me that they had diarrhoea. They appeared to mess up everything. (1) Please let me know from the sample if you consider them a good kind of bee, and if they are Italian bees. (2) Supposing I had put out that box of bees in the spring and the queen died what would they have done. My box was an old one and of an old design of frame. Please let me know if you ever lose any bees during winter. I would also like to know what kind of a place you keep them in in winter. I am sorry to trouble you, but I am anxious for information and to manage them according to the dictates of experienced men. B.

The bees are almost entirely black bees but that is, of course not the cause of their death. If a colony had been queenless when put out in the spring they would have dwindled away or been routed out unless a queen were given to them. This latter would not be likely to pay unless the colony was strong. Bees may be in a perfectly healthy condition in the cellar or outside and yet bees from old age continue to die. If when you first took the bees out they showed signs of diarrhoea by spotting about the entrance of the hive, they were diseased before taking out. Disturbing bees even by jarring when they are unable to fly will cause diarrhoea, which results in restlessness and early decay. The bees were disturbed too much, and an upstairs room in a house is a very bad place for bees. In another number we will describe a good cellar and our cellar. We occasionally lose colonies during the winter, but not often. We are losing individual bees through old age all winter, in fact, throughout the entire year. In the October number the editor will take up best methods of winter. In this department any simple questions in bee-keeping will be answered by the editor. Write to *The Canadian Bee Journal*, asking questions. Your name need not appear if you do not wish it.