

## The Canadian Bee Journal.

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### OUR OWN APIARY.

THE weather just now is all that could be desired; if it had come a month earlier it would have added a thousand or fifteen hundred dollars to our profits this year. It is too late now to expect any honey from the flowers, around here at any rate; late flowers have produced considerable honey within the last few days and the bees are swarming on them. The honey gathered from them is very thin. Our experiment in moving bees this year has proved an utter failure on account of the scarcity of flowers, consequent upon the cold weather; and the frost destroyed a great many of the flowers. Many of the colonies have less honey than before they were moved. We are now moving them back to our home yards, and preparing them for winter. It was very warm and honey was scarce in the flowers the other day and as soon as the bees were set on the wagons with a screen over the hives the odor arising from them in their excited state seemed to attract the bees flying about the hives left in the yard. They thought there was a chance to rob, and in a very few minutes thousands of bees were trying to get into the hives, and it was with difficulty the horses could be hitched to the wagons; even after they started the persistent little fellows continued their efforts to get through the screen, and no amount of smoking or brushing could keep them away, and they frequently stung the driver and horses, which added to the excitement. Had they started earlier in the morning, before the bees commenced to fly, or had there been honey in the flowers for them to gather, no trouble would have arisen. About a mile from the apiary they

were getting rid of the stray bees when they reached the second apiary in the same locality and the bees in this yard went through the same performance. A mile and a half further on the third apiary appeared in sight and the same thing occurred again. Such a thing as this never happened with us before, though there has generally been more or less honey in the flowers to obviate the above difficulty.

Our boys call this being chased with bees to their entire satisfaction or rather dissatisfaction. As there are about 150 more colonies to be moved they have decided to do the work either early in the morning or late in the evening when the bees are not flying. When they stopped to feed the horses about fifteen miles on the way, the bees from the woods flew around the hives in large numbers, evidently attracted there by the strong odor arising from the fifty colonies on the wagon. If a nucleus were carried into the woods early in the spring or late in the fall, when there was no honey in the flowers, and kept in an excited condition would not the odor attract the attention of bees in trees. It seems probable that this might assist in lining bees and finding trees. For the last week we have been running the factory on "Canadian bee feeders" which received first prize at the Toronto Exhibition. The demand for them is so great that it seems difficult to get enough made for our own use. We shall use them exclusively in future for feeding, satisfied that they more than repay the extra outlay. With a steam pipe in the syrup tank we can reduce a barrel of sugar into syrup in a few minutes, and by placing one of our feeders with fifteen or twenty pounds of syrup on a hive, the cost of feeding a colony of bees is reduced to a mere trifle, and the time required to go over a thousand colonies, is very much reduced. We have to keep the entrances closed up to