

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

BEES IN EXCELLENT CONDITION.

THE very severe winter, and continued cold and raw winds we have had, did not permit one to give the bees a flight until very recently, and no doubt these were mainly the cause of the heavy losses reported in the apicultural papers. For over a month I have been waiting anxiously for a fine day to give my bees a flight, as I really believe a cleansing flight during the winter months means more than half the safe wintering of them; but it did not come till the 17th inst. On that day the thermometer registered 50° Far., with no wind. I then carried bees out (twenty-three colonies), which had been in the cellar since Nov. 6, (161 days), and found them, against my expectations, all alive, and not only alive, but very strong. There was no marked difference in them between fall and now, except that some colonies had consumed more stores than others. They were all put into winter quarters without chaff cushions, with but one cotton and some woolen quilts of "farmer's flannel." Those having only two thicknesses of quilt consumed the most stores. Temperature in cellar, mostly 42° Far. Some of the colonies showed signs of dysentery; they spotted the snow somewhat, but not bad. I examined a few and found brood in all stages, others had no brood, having no pollen. I then selected two colonies and gave each a comb of pollen, that they might raise brood. Would like to know if I have done right or not. The time is not far hence when they will be set out permanently. Shall report again after I set them out.

E. SCHULZ.

Lethbridge, Mus.

The giving of pollen will assist them in carrying on brood-rearing; setting them out and giving them a flight will stimulate them to feed the queen, and commence brood-rearing; or, presuming they are set out permanently before this time, if they had no pollen it would be better to give them a comb each. In our section of the country we get pollen from the black willow, soft maple and other sources, as soon as the bees are out of their winter quarters. The fact of you wintering yours so successfully is a proof that the cold winters in our northern locality are no serious objection in bee-keeping, providing scientific management is applied.

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A PIONEER IN BEE-KEEPING.

I WAS very agreeably surprised by receiving the first number of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, it having a broad field of usefulness and competent co-workers in the art of Bee-Keeping. I have no doubt of its success. The winter has been extremely severe, and my health is such that I am obliged to hibernate far more than my bees. They are on their summer stands in double walled hives, packed above and below with paper only, it being the best material, no top ventilation. They have ventured out on every sunny day since the 25th, of February, all such as were in condition for wintering, some always failing to come up to the standard of a perfect colony. There are ten out of fifty which have failed to leave their mark on the cover and to-day those with the most marks are the strongest stocks. It is now about sixty years since I first saw bee hives and bee houses in the Bay of Quinte district, being of the old U. E. L. stock. I had opportunities to see the manner of bee-keeping at that early day in Canada. Great disasters came among the bees of those times and only a few succeeded in keeping their bees: the moth was supposed to be the great difficulty. This being my first letter to you I presume you will excuse my unsteady hand while I relate my beekeeping life of about fifteen years in movable frame, hives wintering indoors and the introduction of Italian Bee, artificial swarming, &c.

B. LOSEE.

Cobourg, April 4th. 1885.

We shall be pleased indeed to hear from you as often as possible. Articles from veterans in the business like yourself, who have had experience, do much towards making the JOURNAL interesting.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear each week, Queries and Replies; the former may be propounded by any subscriber, and will be replied to by prominent bee-keepers, throughout Canada and the United States who can answer from experience, as well as by the Editor. This Department will be reserved for the more important questions, others will be answered in another place. We hope to make this one of the most interesting departments of the JOURNAL.

FASTENING FOUNDATION IN FRAMES.

QUERY NO. 15.—PETROLIA, ONT.—In fastening comb foundation into frames and sections it sometimes pulls off and drops down. Will you tell me the best way to fasten it to prevent this?

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—Wire the frames. I like this so well that I shall always wire after this. It has much to recommend it.