

fall," I do not practice it and never advised it. The brooding ought to be all over and the bees settled down to quiescence some time before being put into winter quarters. Of course, it is better to supply bees late in the fall with winter stores, whether it induces brooding or not, than to put them in with deficient stores and risk them starving, but it is better still to have the feeding and breeding all done at the proper time.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

Selby, Ont., Sept. 26, 1888.

For the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

This Season of the Best.

FRIEND BLACK SECURES 108 LBS. SURPLUS PER COLONY IN SPITE OF DROUTH.

THIS year has been one of my best in bee-keeping. Last fall I put in seventeen and brought through the winter fifteen. Ten of them were outside in chaff and paper packed hives and the remainder in the cellar. The two that died were of the cellar lot. Their food was half honey and half sugar syrup and fed on September 7th. This spring I sold two and hence have now to report results from thirteen.

As soon as the weather warmed a little about the first of May, I began to give them room by adding empty frames, and equalising them in numbers by the removal of young bees and brood from the stronger to the weaker, so that by the middle of June they were well prepared for any honey flow that might come. But the big flow did not come, barely sufficient to keep up brooding. Thus it was throughout June and first half of July. By this time the severe drouth had told on vegetation and I gave up hopes of a clover yield. Basswood and buckwheat and wild flowers were yet to come, but Barrie and lands adjacent are limited as to these, so feeling the need of a month's rest I determined to go and take my bees with me.

The place selected was the bank of the Nottawasaga, three miles to the north of the village of Angus, and 13 miles west of Barrie. By the time they had adapted themselves to their new location the basswood began to yield, but while there were a large number of trees the yield was not large. Then came in several patches of buckwheat which did better. But the bees never struck a "bonanza" till the wild flowers opened out, then it just rained honey in the hives for a few weeks, and when I last extracted my thirteen hives had given me fourteen hundred pounds surplus, had increased to twenty-two, sent forth perhaps a dozen into the woods dur-

ing my enforced absence, and contained from 30 to 60 pounds each for winter stores.

Such a result I attribute in part to the favorable location, though not by any means all to this, for a neighbor in Barrie, to whom I sold one this spring, during the same time that mine were away, gave him over fifty pounds of comb honey, one of an increase, and of stores in both there are not less than 100 pounds of sealed honey. The next and most important factor in the harvest was the numerical strength of each stock. Most of my boxes are two storeys, and I encouraged multiplication till they filled all available bee space between the roof and the bottom board. In this condition they went through the whole honey season. It was really pitiable at intervals, when the weather was unusually warm, to see them in the late evening clinging to the outside of the box with a view to extracting a little comfort from the lesser warmth of the outside atmosphere. Then the quality of my workers had a little to do with the result. I have carefully eliminated all queens that did not come up to a high standard, and have paid equal attention to the drones. At first I emphasised gentleness, not liking the stings, but gradually this quality passed out of sight and prolificness, hardiness and business energy came to the front. I firmly believe with you, Mr. Editor, that the quality of the bee is a factor that ought not to be passed by in the enumeration of causes working for favorable results. And it may be that with the exception of an individual here and there, too little emphasis has been placed here. We plan and work for quality in our horses and cattle, in our domestic and fancy birds, and why not in a structure so delicate as that of the honey bee.

J. R. BLACK.

Barrie, Sept. 26.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

A GOOD INVESTMENT.

MR. TIPLING'S PLAN OF HIVING SWARMS.

THE colony of Italian bees you forwarded to me on June 21st, has increased to four and all have abundance of stores for winter. Indeed one of them now weighs full 90 lbs., the three others have over 30 lbs. each of stores, and this in less than three months. It was certainly a good investment.

A good deal of scribbling has been done respecting the hiving of swarms, but I have not seen mentioned the following way of placing frames whilst hiving them: Gauge the number of frames that will be required by size of cluster; then commence at one side or end of hive with drawn-out comb, one or two, ac-