

snow now covering it will be likely to protect it till well along in the spring.

SELBY, Ont., Feb 23rd.

Nothing Settled—Conflicting Opinions.

A. BOOMER.

Perhaps in no other industry or profession can there be found not only such a divergence, nay more, such a real conflict of opinion as there seems to exist in this bee business. Let a question be submitted to a dozen of our most practical bee-keepers and not more than two or three, at most, of them will agree in their answers. And the divergence of their views is often quite bewildering. One man approves of cellar wintering, another as strongly supports the outdoor plan. One would have sealed covers, another would have unsealed or new cotton. One wants shallow frames, another a deeper one, and so we might go on enumerating, and in almost, if not in every particular, we find this same divergence of opinion. What has been one man's experience, has not proven true with the other. And amateurs like myself, are often very much puzzled to know what plan is best for him to adopt, either as to winter, spring or summer management, or as to style of hive that will be the most easily manipulated for extracting and comb honey purposes.

One of my neighbors says, "that before he began to read bee books and papers he had good success and got lots of honey but after adopting some of the newfangled ways, he lost all his bees."

Now whilst I don't think that his adversity in this line was attributable to reading bee literature, it would nevertheless be much more satisfactory if there were at least a greater consensus of opinion upon the leading features of the industry.

I think it possible however to so amalgamate some of the apparently conflicting opinions as to extract at least some information from them as to the different methods of wintering. I shall say nothing just now, the time for anything of this kind is early in the fall, nor shall I say anything as to the particular kind or size of hive to use. A good deal is being said in favor of the Langstroth, I suppose by those who use them, this seems to have arisen by way of deciding if possible on the best depth of frame, and those who use them appear to conclude that with a shallow frame such as used in the hive referred to, the bees will more readily enter the sections or supers. I use a somewhat deeper frame and have never had any trouble getting the bees to enter the sections. Some parties put sections into hives that have swarmed and expect to get them filled, this is simply nonsense, unless all queen cells have been cut away after a young queen has hatched out, but in such a case if I think they will make some surplus I give them a case of empty combs in the super and do not run the risk of getting a case of sections perhaps half filled and thus spoiled. I do not put either sections or supers on an old colony until I am satisfied they are strong enough both in numbers and amount of honey stored in the brood chamber and then I do not have to wait long to find the bees busy at work, either in the sections or supers. Others will put sections onto second swarms and expect to get them filled, but are mostly disappointed. I put sections only on old colonies and first swarms on old colonies, by using full sheets of foundation in the sections. Queen excluders may quite safely be omitted, also on new swarms, if full sheets of foundation are used and bees allowed a few days to draw it out so that the queen may get to laying, in which case queen excluders may quite safely be omitted, but if the swarm be very large