

losses from having them balled and superseded, all of which may be accounted for in a measure by the unfavorable weather. Inexperienced persons opening hives on cold days, evenings or mornings, without exercising care—if no honey is coming in—are very liable to have queens destroyed.

#### HOW TO PREVENT ROBBING.

JOSEPH B. WAITE, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—I commenced the Winter with four hives, left them on their summer stands, and lost two of them. I would like to know which is the best way to prevent robbing. I have been frequently troubled.

Robbing, in the first place, should not be allowed to commence. If care is taken there need not be much if any robbing. Entrances should be kept the proper size, that is, just large enough to allow the bees to pass in and out at all times. We find that "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure." After it is once commenced, a good remedy is to open the entrance wide, throw down loosely some dry hay six to ten inches deep so that the air is allowed to get to the entrance, then take a pail of cold water and soak hay, straw or grass, in it for a few minutes. Sprinkle the wet straw over the top of the dry. The robber-bees will have to crawl through the wet hay, getting their bodies and wings wet before they get to the hive. The notion of stealing honey is all taken out of them and instead of attempting to enter the hive they crawl back and go home. A cold wet bee will never rob the dry bees in a hive. It requires little effort to guard the entrance, but when robbing is going on it is well to watch the neighbouring hives, because when compelled to leave the one they are robbing, they frequently rush on the next hive and overpower them if not kept away with the smoker; they will soon give up their efforts and go home and try and lead more honest lives, until they get dry and another opportunity presents itself.

#### OUR CHAFF HIVES.

CHRIS. THRONSON, CAMBRIDGE, WIS.—Do you mean to say that your chaff hives have twelve inches of chaff around and on top and bottom? How many frames do you use for brood, and how many for section? How can you take surplus from the top of your chaff hive? Would you advise me to make passages through combs and not leave any passage on top?

The chaff hive that we are making now has only one inch, space for packing, but instead of packing with chaff, we pack with dry cedar sawdust. It is the same size inside as our ordinary hive. We take surplus from top of chaff hive in the way that we do in the single-walled hive—by the use of section-crates, sections on tin rests or skeleton crates. The size of the brood frame is about  $10\frac{1}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{4}$ . Would prefer passage on top of combs, rather than through, for ordinary purposes.

A. R. FRASER, NAIRN, ONT.—I got a few pounds of Bokara clover from you. I sowed it last Spring and it is a first-class crop now, but I am ignorant of how to handle it. Do I cut it and when and how often and is it good for food and how long will it last before plowing up?

If you let it stand and go to seed it will not bloom constantly until frost appears, but if you mow off the the top now about a foot from the ground it will then sprout out, making it a little later in blooming, which comes on just after basswood is over, and you get a continuous bloom until frost arrives. We have not been able to make any use of it for hay. When mowed it may be used for green fodder if you so desire. It is so sweet that some cattle do not care much for it.

#### TARES AS A HONEY PLANT.

Are tares or vetches good for honey as I see the bees work on them very much?

We have never had any tares near our bee yards, so have not had any experience. Reports show that they do get honey and pollen from them. If anyone has any further testimony on this subject we shall be glad to hear from them.