

and I thought without that knowledge there was no use in trying. If I had then your interesting *BEE JOURNAL* and the *Cook's Manual* you sent me last fall I think I would not have been long in knowing how to handle bees. Nine years ago last July a runaway colony crossed the country onto my land alighting on an oak tree. This swarm I and my boys hived. In the fall I buried them this way—I raised the ground about nine inches, on the top of that I put about four inches of dry chaff, then two pieces of 2x4 scantling on their edge first tacking two small strips across to keep them from turning, the scantling to be the same distance from outside to outside as the hive is wide—on the top of the scantling I set my hive without a bottom board, then put strips of board around the hive one end in the ground the other running to a point above the hive in the shape of a cone; on them strips of boards, a coat of straw, on the straw a coat of earth about nine inches deep and my bees were buried for the winter without any ventilation. In the spring they came out very strong. The second year I buried them the same way putting the hives in a row four inches apart on the scantling. In the spring they came out very strong. The third year increased to eighteen. Killed six with sulphur in the fall to get the honey and buried twelve in the same way. In the spring they came out strong. The fourth year increased to thirty-nine. Killed seventeen with sulphur and buried twenty-two. The fifth year increased to sixty-nine. Killed twenty-nine by sulphur and buried forty. Sixth year increased to eighty-five. Killed thirty-three by sulphur and put into my bee house fifty-two colonies for winter. In this year I thought I had struck a very good system of wintering. They increased so fast that it was considerable labor to put them into winter quarters and I thought I would build a bee house as like the old system as I could so that it would lessen the labor in putting them in winter quarters. Here is a description of my bee house—16x30 ft. on the outside, 10x24 ft. on the inside, and about 6 ft. ceiling, ground floor, walls and ceiling veneered with cedar about four inches thick, on the outside of veneering is a coat of straw, the outside of wall is a dry stone wall about fifteen inches thick and between the wall and the straw on the veneering is filled with earth, the roof is earth sodded over. Fine ventilation with valves which can be regulated at pleasure to take off the carbonic acid gas or impure air, two that take from the bottom and three from the top, and one ventilator to bring fresh air into house. About fifteen feet from house a perpendicular pipe goes down into the ground where a cylinder is formed for the air to revolve, from this a horizontal pipe runs underground until it reaches the centre of the house. Then a perpendicular pipe until it reaches within a foot of the ceiling with a valve on, which you can control at pleasure. How I put the bees into house—there are five joists across the house eight inches high from the floor. I pile chaff all over the floor up to the joists, then I place scantling across, I set my bees on these without bottom boards.

Addison, Ont., Dec. 31st, 1887.

Thanks for your report. We are specially interested in your success in wintering without the loss of a colony

year after year. If you had placed a ridge pole over your hives and leaned boards up against it it would not cost very much to pack 100 colonies in the way you mention. The fact of your wintering them year after year so successfully proves that they do not require any more air than they could get when so packed, but this brimstone business you speak of almost frightens us. We have sometimes heard our ministers speak of fire and brimstone but you seem to have been dealing it out to the poor innocent bees in a manner never intended. We hope if there are any in your locality who practice the brimstone system yet, that in the interest of humanity you will encourage them to adopt a more humane course of treatment. No doubt you see the loss you have sustained by that practice yourself. We will be pleased to hear of your further operations and especially in wintering. Give us the result of your experience from time to time. Let us know how your bee house compares with the clamp system you adopted. You might also tell us if the ground was dry clay, loam or sand. On damp wet land and heavy clay we have heard of some unfavorable results from that system of clamp wintering but on dry ground, and especially light soils when the bees are properly put away, it seems to be a very cheap and good repository.

Convention Notices.

WELLAND COUNTY BEE-KEEPERS' CONVENTION.

As nearly all the friends who have signified their willingness to help organise the proposed convention for Welland county, live nearer Ridgeway than Welland, the county town, the committee in charge have decided to hold the first meeting at the Town Hall, Ridgeway, on Monday, Feb. 20th, 1888. All are cordially invited. Morning session from 10.30 to 12.00, afternoon from 1.30 to 5 p.m. A good program is being prepared. If you have anything of interest to bee-keepers either in bee fixtures or good ideas bring them along.

J. F. DUNN, Secretary.

Ridgeway, Ont.

CIRCULARS RECEIVED.

R. E. Smith, Tilbury Centre—16 pages and cover—this catalogue we have just turned out of our office for Mr. Smith, and in it he advertises Hives, Bees, Queens, Sections and all manner of supplies needed by an apiarist. He sells a goodly number of goods of our make, and we can assure his customers that we have always found our dealings with him of the most