

to winter. Two years ago I procured half a dozen new hives, two story ones with movable frames, the top story being for box honey, but having neglected them I find the combs in the new hive are built in every direction so that I am unable to examine the hives or do anything with them. I would be glad if you could advise me what to do as I would like to start on the new and approved methods, and there are no bee-keepers in my vicinity to whom I can go for instructions. I would like to Italianize some of my stocks during the coming Summer if possible. I see by the JOURNAL that a great many bee-keepers are complaining about the serious losses they have sustained in wintering. I will give you my plan and it is about the only part of bees that I have been successful with. I can almost count to a certainty on putting out as many bees in the Spring as I put away in the Fall, provided their stores hold out. My bees are wintered in a large cellar, built of stone and lime, entirely frost proof, but what the average temperature might be I could not tell as I never tested it. The bees are placed on shelves about half way between the floor and ceiling and quite close together, the front of the hives turned to the wall and the openings all left the same as in Summer and there they remain all winter quite safe. I put away twelve colonies on the 25th of Nov. last and on the 19th of April took them all out to give them their first flight and found them all in good order and plenty of bees to commence work with.

THOMAS J. WEBSTER, OAKWOOD, ONT.—I commenced with ninety colonies, increased to one hundred and fifty four colonies by natural swarming. I took fifty-four of the best for extracting the rest, I let swarm as I wanted to put them in the Heddon hive. I put in foundation in part of the frames on wires full size and some of the frames I put in strips as my foundation was cut too large. The first swarms I kept taking frames of brood from to put with the next swarm and it left me a poor chance to get much comb honey as some were late swarms. I put the honey board on some of the best and cases on top with starters of foundation and they went up and filled them just about ready for sealing over. I then raised them up and put in an empty one under, but it was almost too late in the season and they left me with about 150 not finished sections, but they will come good for this season. I got 500 well filled sections. The season for honey was very short and the best was over before I got on my surplus cases. I extracted from the eighty-four hives 6,700 lbs. of clover and basswood

honey. I use the Quinby hive for extracted honey and put on extra frames on the top. I don't extract surplus from the bottom story. I only had combs enough for thirty hives till I got more built out or I would have had a great deal more honey but it wasn't so bad for a poor season. My bees are all Italians but seven or eight and I intend to put Italian queens in them this Spring.

J. J. RAYMOND BALL, KNOWLTON, QUE.—Bees are booming here now on Alsike Clover. I have not seen anything in the JOURNAL about Raspberry as a honey producing shrub, but with us it has beat anything yet. This Spring strong colonies have filled their hives from this source. I had one colony that gathered four pounds in one day from raspberry alone. I would like to tell how I am increasing my bees. As soon as a colony gets queen cells well started I take an empty hive with six or eight frames of foundation or empty combs and one frame of unsealed brood and place the same on the stand you wish to divide, then shake the bees all into it from the other hive but leave three or four of best frames of sealed brood and a few bees; give them a young queen or cell ready to hatch, then place the same in the place of another strong colony about ready to start cells. In that way you get one colony from two and usually subdue the swarming fever for a time at least. I forgot to say that the surplus combs of brood that were in the first hive can be given to strengthen weaker colonies, or can be given to nuclei. If there is a better way to divide or to build up colonies at this season of the year I should like to know the method. Happening to be in the woods yesterday and coming across some basswoods I saw a sight that would make any bee-keeper happy. They were completely loaded with buds! How long after they commence to bud before the blossoms will be out? Who can tell? If nothing unusual sets in we will all have big reports to make this Fall. I am well pleased with the C. B. J. and think we are getting more than the worth of our money. It is a marvel of cheapness.

BASSWOOD IN BLOOM YET.

ILA MICHNER, LOW BANK, MONCK CO., ONT.—It seems strange to hear you say basswood has ceased to yield with you, so much farther North than us. Our bees are gathering nicely yet from trees close to the lake shore.

ABNER PICKET, NASSAGAWEYA, ONT.—Started the Winter with 26 hives. I put out in April twenty hives, some of which were weak having been but small swarms in Fall. Wintered in Jones' hive in bee house. Though I have not made much headway since I started I do not feel discouraged; many have lost all they had.