

[We are glad to hear from you, friend Hartley, and congratulate you on your good crop last year. In reference to the honey board, it is not quite correct to say that there is a "revival" of it. It was mentioned only incidentally by ourselves, and this brought out the fact that Mr. J. B. Hall of Woodstock used it also. Its great feature lies in the fact that it allows the bees to cross over the frames in the spring when they get down to work. It also allows the moisture to pass up from the hive and become absorbed in the packing above. A by no means inconsiderate consideration. Your canvas cloth is all right if put on new each fall. The moisture will be readily absorbed. But if it is covered with propolis this will not be the case. We would advise, however, that you put three or four small cleats of about one-quarter or three-eighths inches under the canvas to allow a bee-way on top of frames. Bees wintered outside rarely suffer from spring dwindling. There must be a cause behind to produce this effect. We have a suspicion that your tops were sealed too closely and did not admit of enough ventilation. Otherwise your system is very much similar to our own. We believe that outdoor wintering is away ahead of cellar wintering, if for no other reason than that the bees have a good warm abode when they start brood-rearing. The cold wet weather of April is very hard on bees taken from the cellar and sitting on their summer stands. In their efforts to keep warm, brood-rearing must necessarily be restricted. You are very generous to your bees—if not extravagant—in giving them sealed stores. In these days of intense commercialism, when dollars are the results sought for—not always the most laudable aim, to be sure—

most men would extract these stores and feed back sugar syrup two to one, as the syrup is worth about one-half what the honey is. It is not good business to feed bees stores at 10 and 12 cents per pound, when it can be done just as well at 5 or 6 cents per pound. And be it remembered that sugar syrup is just as good as honey for stores.—Ed.]

CONTROLLING OF SWARMS

BY GEO. W. STRANGWAYS, ELORA, ONT.

The note on Mr. Miller, re "The Controlling of Swarms," reminds me of an incident that happened me in connection with one colony I had. I (being away from home) thought I would clip the wing of the queen in this colony. I did so, and then I placed a prepared hive near the entrance, perhaps about four or five feet away, and at right angles. The object was to induce the queen and swarm to hive themselves, as I had done on previous occasions. Whenever I came home my first question with regard to the bees was, "Have the bees swarmed yet?" "I don't know," generally came the answer. However, I always examined for myself. At last I found the prepared hive occupied. It could not have been hived more than one or two days. I at once set to work to examine the old stand. I lifted the cover, and, to my surprise, I heard young queens piping. "Well, well!" I said to myself, "I bet they have superseded the clipped queen. No sooner did I think of it than I was into the new swarm. Everything in nice order, but not an egg to be seen. Well, I will look for the queen. Sure enough, there she is, with both wings intact. The story is told. The clipped wing was a disappointment again.

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By G. A.

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