

the same accounts arrive that the honey crop is short. In this country there has been, as far as herbage is concerned, a favorable outlook. But it appears under certain atmospheric conditions that bees will not work, or extract the nectar from the pistils of the different flowers. The bees get lazy and won't work. But it is strange that whilst tame or skep bees this season have been behind there is no evidence but that bees in a wild state have produced a normal quantity of honey. And hence it is inferred that tame bees get reduced in physical stamina by artificial feeding and unnatural conditions, and are not capable of extracting the honeyed juices from the plant. Darwin and Sir John Lubbock have both referred to this question of bees under domestication, and have shown that, like other animals (in the generic sense) and plants, that a gradual deterioration takes place. It appears that colonies of bees that have not been stocked up by the introduction of fresh blood have been the first to fall through in their honey making capacities. Apiarists should continually be importing new queens as far away from this latitude as possible. Like any other class of animal or plant, bees run out unless new blood is continually introduced. Although atmospheric conditions may certainly influence the actions of this insect, the probabilities are that artificial feeding and cultivation has degenerated the race, and their physical powers have been reduced. Bee-keeping has become prominent as one of our rural industries, and Ontario will lose to a great extent in the yield of the honey crop. A well known apiarist in this district advises the continual importation of new queens from Italy and the Mediterranean Islands in order to keep up the physical strength of the stock. And also recommends that less artificial food be given in the way of sugar, etc. On the whole Ontario will be behind in the honey yield several thousand dollars, as the yield will not approach within 50 per cent. of last year's turnout.

From the Iowa Homestead.

#### Putting in Winter Quarters Early.

SEE it is advised by some writers not to put bees into winter repositories until cold, freezing weather. This, I think, cannot be endorsed by practical bee-keepers, although we know of bees that wintered under these circumstances. Yet I call it bad economy. It may be advisable to avoid long confinement, as I see it very often advised to give bees a fly when the weather will permit during the winter. This I do not approve of as bees can be kept in a good repository for a much longer time than

is required in this climate and kept in good condition.

To winter bees well they should be put in the winter quarters before frost gets in the hive, be it the first of November or the last. I had two colonies put in on the 24th day of October and weighed. The very same day I also weighed twenty colonies and left them on their summer stands. On the 16th day of November I weighed them again, and put them in the repository. I found that they consumed on the average three pounds to the colony, while the two in the repository only consumed one pound. On the whole number I lost 160 pounds of honey on those I left on the summer stands; or, in other words, I would have saved 160 pounds of honey if I had put them all in on October 24. Bees are very light in stores, and placing them in winter quarters early may save many a colony. To keep them in long confinement, these three points are necessary: First, place them in the repository before the frost gets in the hive, or approach of cold weather; second, the temperature should be kept at 40 or 50 degrees above zero, either by natural or artificial heat (mine is naturally); third, they must never be so disturbed as to break their cluster when in winter quiet or hibernated.

From Gleanings.

#### The Howard Comb-Filler.

DISPENSING WITH A FEEDER.

SOME time ago, perhaps you will remember, friend Miller described his method of filling combs with syrup, the same to be afterward placed in the hive. Our attention has been called recently to Howard's comb-filler, invented by Mr. J. H. Howard, of Holme, Peterboro, England.

It is simply a syrup-tight box, into which a comb of the proper size can be placed. The lid is made removable, so that the combs may be taken out and replaced as fast as they are filled. In the circular sent which accompanies the illustration, Mr. Howard says that the frame is placed in the box, and that the syrup, warmed 15 degrees above the surrounding temperature, is poured around the comb until within an inch of the top-bar. The cover is then adjusted, and some some half-dozen up-and-down jerky motions cause the comb to be filled with three or four pounds of stores, according to its capacity. After this the frame is taken out and placed in a suitable box to drain. A wet sponge is then used to wipe off the surface of the comb so that it will be free from all drippings. As soon as the sponge is filled with syrup, it is