


Englishman can fight a man, and whether he wins or loses bear him no ill feeling afterwards. My motto is, "Hit as hard as you can, do your best in all things, and never be vicious if licked."

A HALLAMSHIRE BEE-KEEPER.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Setting Bees Out Early.

 YOU know for a few years past I have advocated early setting out—that is as soon as there is warm enough weather for the bees to fly freely, and snow mostly gone.

As a rule we have a few fine days early in April which just suits me. The seventh of the month was a nice day so about the middle of the day I set out about twenty, and really they seemed to enjoy it, and appeared as numerous about the hive as on setting them away. It cooled off towards evening, and a few days until the twelfth was cold; on that afternoon the balance were removed taking the time nearly to sundown; but the evening promised as good as could be desired. Next morning was delightful when all made the air resonant with their hum. Two died in wintering out of seventy six. The cellar was warm and to occupy the leisure time they have gnawed holes in their quilts. With few exceptions all are tarred with the same stick. With the cellar door open to carry them out, although the entrances were closed, they flew about the cellar in great numbers and crawled out over the hives so that it was hard to carry them without crushing some.

PROTECTION IN SPRING.

The next thing in order is to make them warm, this I do by covering with two or three thicknesses of paper, and putting on the cover without opening the hives at all. Following days I visit them, and if suitable weather when they are flying, take notice how each one is. If weak few will be flying; if queenless they will not go to work with the same zest. Having found one I set my tent over it and go to work supplying what is needed; leaving only what few combs they can attend to until I have gone over them. After several days some that appeared strong are now very weak—and here is where the advantage of having them out before real steady everyday work commences. When they are first set out the activity and new life imparted starts them breeding and it will be three weeks before bees are hatched to take the place of the old ones, many cold days intervening keep the bees at home and they do not die off nearly so fast as if they gathered every day. I got a season by keeping most of my bees in until nearly

May one year. Fine weather commenced, and day after day they were gathering, and by the time the three weeks was up I had a lot of combs containing sealed brood on my hands and very few bees. Those of the same year set out two weeks earlier just made progress while the others went back. I always think now that if I can tide them over three weeks I have those colonies for the summer sure.

The weather has been so very cold and cloudy with seemingly no exceptions this last three weeks that I have let the strong colonies do the examining for me. I watch them and when they commence robbing one I remove it and tend to it in the way it should have been. I found this year in my apiary what I never met with before, a drone laying queen wintered over, and I decided at once not to summer her.

At this writing I have sixty eight colonies, with sixty all that could be expected this season at this date. Quite a few have drones flying. I was thinking the other evening that he is a happy apiarist that left plenty of stores in the hives last fall. All I have done towards helping the bees is to lift them all, and any that were light, give them a frame of sealed honey in the back of the hive. It takes a good deal of experience to get the "knack" of prying loose a frame this cold weather without disturbing the bees. I do it towards the evening when all is still, and I do not use smoke or but very little. I am going to give you an article on smoking bees at some future time. I do like to see a row of bees come peeping around the corners of the frame in British square style backed up by row after row, to see what is going on in the rear. When they find it is a frame of honey of a different flavor to their own they think it is a bonanza, and go to work and remove it to the brood nest. If they have considerable, I do not know but it pays to exchange combs for this purpose. I had to feed sugar to several colonies a few years ago in a spring similar to this, but lost about half of my bees by balling and otherwise made a miserable failure of the whole thing. Let any one try it and succeed in the cold spring months. I think I have gone up a gradual incline with experience to back me in nearly all I practice now.

FRAMES AT FIXED DISTANCES.

Yes, I tried frames at fixed distances; that is past, do not want any more of them.

THOS. STOKES.

Minesing, May 19th.

You are right, Friend Stokes, in keeping plenty of honey for stores as in a season like this we require double the stores, that would be necessary in an