

some honey as I have one swarm in a barre^l and thought I would let them increase? What fuel do you use in the smokers?

Farrs Rancho, C.P.R., B.C.

Killing the drones would, we should say, have nothing to do with the bees which were being hauled out of the hive. They were probably young bees which had died in the cells. Putting on a bee guard would restrain the swarming impulse, and if the colony is strong and there is not too much room in the lower story the bees will go to work in the upper compartment and store up surplus honey—providing there is any honey coming in. You can easily get them to do this without the continual use of the drone guard. We would suggest that you get one of the many manuals on bee culture and give it careful study during the present winter. You will then have a better understanding of the process by which a crop of honey may be got than now. We use "punk" or dried rotten wood in our smokers and find it about as good as anything that we can get cheaply and handy in this section.

A NEW KIND OF CLAMP.

F. MEHLENBACKER.—Although my report of the season is not as good as it might be or has been other seasons, I will send it in correctly, which, I think, is a duty every bee-keeper ought to perform, otherwise, reports are not of much value. It is true we have good and bad reports and no doubt many of them are correct. Associations send in reports all in a line, saying, so many colonies, and so many increase, so many pounds honey, but, in many cases, what does it signify? It is not mentioned how they are provided with winter stores, nor what number of pounds were fed back either in honey or sugar to make them safe. For the above reasons, we often have little knowledge of a bee-keepers true success. Certainly, it is sometimes hard to judge whether the season, locality or bad management was the cause of a poor report, or perhaps the bees were in such a bad shape in spring that all efforts (even with a good season and locality) could not secure a good crop. It is true bee-keeping has a bright and a dark side, but has it not often good reasons for showing its colors? At the present time, I think other callings have no brighter side than bee-keeping. I know, in this vicinity, farmers are not so very well pleased with their crops or prices either. Then, why, if such things are ruling and all are complaining of hard times, should it be expected that bee-keeping alone would be

bright and blooming? Here, the spring was very favorable for bees, and alsike clover yielded well but as soon as it was over the entire yield made a sudden stop, still, I thought my colonies all had abundant stores for winter. I was a little disappointed in looking over them in the fall.

I commenced in the spring with sixteen colonies increased to thirty-four. In swarming time sold one first swarm and three in the fall. One of these had plenty of stores but the other two I sold with bees and empty combs only. Have taken 1,400 lbs extracted honey but had to feed back 150 lbs. to have them sufficiently strong to carry them through. All my hives are the Jones, one-storey, single-walled, and by actual weight, were made to go 65 lbs. each on the 1st Oct. My bees are all packed in chaff in clamps. This fall, I have made a new clamp, something different from what I have seen. I will describe it, and should you find any objection, please tell me through your valuable JOURNAL. It is 5½x6½ feet square, and holds eight colonies, all in a compact block or space. I have three entrances south, three north, one east and one west, giving 1½ inch space between hives and ten inches all round outside for packing. The two from east and west are put in last and are between the others, leaving just room enough in the centre to slip in the last hive. The roof is two-sided, not a great deal of pitch, and is shingled. Both sides of roof can be taken off or put on in almost a moment. For several reasons I like it better than a long clamp, but of course I will not say I like it or call it good unless bees come out all right in the spring.

Fisherville, Dec. 6th, 1886.

As long as the chief principles connected with wintering are observed, the shape of the clamp does not matter much. We shall be glad to have a report in the spring of how your clamp worked.

THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

BEETON, ONTARIO, JANUARY 5, 1887.

While this issue is winging its way to its readers the O.B.K.A. convention is in full swing.

On Tuesday last 43 new names were added to our list—since that another 89 have sent in their subscriptions. One and all are thanked by us for these tangible appreciations of our efforts.

Now that a rousing meeting is to be the tribute to our English Commissioners, why not turn the amounts held for that purpose over to the "Defence" fund account. Let us hear from those interested.