

For THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

THE HONEY SEASON OF 1892.

The season just passed has been in some respects a peculiar one with us in this section of the country. We set our bees out on the 27th of April—several days later than usual, and for a short time things looked promising. Then elm and maple failed to yield their usual quota of honey; plum trees did not amount to much either, and the weather was rainy much of the time. This left the colonies so low in stores that we had to feed heavily from the 21st to the 29th of May to keep them breeding in good shape.

Then apple trees and dandelions yielded fairly for a few days, enabling them to store enough to bring them up to the 10th of June, when raspberries began to furnish a little honey. The season was very late, and clover did not yield anything of account until the 21st of the month—from eight to twelve days later than usual. On the 23rd we put on our first supers. The wet weather of the earlier part of the season had been favorable for the clover, and it came on wonderfully. The weather proving good the bees stored an immense amount of honey from this source up to the time basswood opened on the 16th July. I never saw, I think, so much honey gathered from clover alone.

Swarming was very late, I heard of very few swarms before the 20th of June. In our home yard of nearly two hundred colonies we did not have a swarm until the 28th of the month, but we discourage swarming as much as possible. A great many complained of excessive swarming, but they did not act as badly with us as they have done in some years.

We had the right sort of weather, warm and muggy, while basswood was in season; and although the bloom was not as plentiful as the year previous, still it did very well, and gave us a good quantity of honey. It failed on the 28th July, and the honey season of 1892 was ended. Bees did not gather enough after this to any more than breed nicely. We usually get a good flow

from buckwheat, but owing to wet weather when the farmers should have sowed it but little was put in. Fall flowers did not amount to much either.

As the majority of beekeepers did not practise feeding their bees, I greatly fear a heavy winter loss throughout a large share of the province of Quebec on account of swarming coming so late, and but little honey being gathered after it. I had to feed my bees an average of about twenty-two lbs. per colony to prepare them for winter. Altogether the season was very good for the advanced beekeepers, all the honey obtained was white, and of extra quality.

THE WORLD'S FAIR.

I am very sorry Quebec beekeepers generally did not stir themselves in good season and prepare an exhibit of honey for the World's Fair next year. The idea was considered by a few; but as the difficulties in the way were many, it was finally abandoned. There is no better honey produced in the world than that obtained from the rich clover fields in the valleys bordering the Richelieu, St. Francis, St. Maurice and other rivers. There is something about the climate and soil that gives it an individuality wholly its own. The beeswax here produced too, has a peculiar sweetness and rich aroma that I have never found to be equalled in wax from any other source. The province should have made a good exhibit, without question.

F. W. JONES.

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BEEKEEPING THEORIES.

SIR,—In looking over the last number of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, I read with much interest the question, "Why is it?" delivered by J. K. Darling at the last annual meeting at Walkerton. Mr. Darling must have given this subject a great amount of study, for there never was so many facts crowded into so small a space before. On several occasions I have reason to complain of the very complicated way that scientific beekeepers take in