

you say that? Just dare to tell me why?" I know it's the common thing to say that the stove should be in one apartment and the bees in an apartment adjoining, but like many another thing it seems to be nothing but idle tradition, without any reason given, and without any shadow of proof that a stove in the room will harm the bees. If I ask you for proof, I suppose you will refer me to the experience of G. M. Doolittle. I don't remember seeing any other case reported of the harm of fire in the bee-room. His testimony is concise and pointed: "I never used a stove except one year, and then I lost nearly all my bees." But was it the heat that killed the bees? If I am correct he used an oil-stove. One winter I got an oil-stove, and was quite delighted with the thought that I could heat with it the sleeping room that had no stove. I put it one evening in a room, closed the door and left it to warm up. About bedtime I went to the room and found it quite comfortable, but I noticed that the flame of the lamp in my hand went down quite low. I took it out in the hall and it came up promptly, but I found it sank as often as I went into the room. There was no chimney to carry off the exhausted air produced by the combustion, and that oil stove left the house the next day never to return. Of course a fire burning in either a bed room or bee-cellar with no chimney to carry out the result of the exhaust combustion could be expected to do no less than to result in death.

But let there be a decently conducted fire in a stove, and why should it be so much worse for bees than for folks? You don't always insist on having the stove in the room adjoining where you are sitting. Why should you for bees? I have for years kept a fire of hard coal in the same room with my bees, and my heaviest losses have usually been when this fire has been for part or all of the time omitted. Last winter my losses were not due to the presence or absence of fire, but to late hauling and putting bees in cellar without a fly. The bees in the shop cellar were not thus abused, and my loss in that cellar was 3 out of 90, one of the three being a nucleus. The bees came out in fine condition after a confinement of five months, and the stove stood in the middle of the room, the hives standing on all sides around and facing the stove. Now say, mister, why do you object?

I'm ashamed to say that I didn't know wax from old comb was softer than from new till I read it from Mr. Post. I wonder why. With regard to cooling wax slowly to have it clear, it may be worth while to mention for the sake of beginners,

that a large body of wax will cool slower than a small one. The average bee-keeper may find it a good plan to put his wax in the oven of the stove at night, and as the fire dies out it will cool more slowly than if on top. Also it will cool more slowly if a large body of water is with a small amount of wax.

Rev. W. F. Clark was entirely mistaken in supposing that the North American was bagged by a single member from Canada at the meeting last year. Never was stronger effort made to carry the meeting to any particular point than was made at St. Joe to have it go to Nebraska this year, and if nothing had been considered but the personal preferences of those present, Canada would not have stood a ghost of a chance. But there was a sort of understanding at Chicago that after St. Joe should come Canada, and that plea carried the day. If I may be excused for saying so, I think I did more of the bagging myself than did the member from Canada. At any rate I think I said more. And by the same rule I should urge its next meeting in Nebraska.

C. C. MILLER.

[Dr. Miller has given us some excellent thoughts in connection with the cooling of wax, let us note them. About the stove. Doctor, I object very strongly to going to bed with a stove going in the room, and that fits more nearly the winter condition of bees, so you have not caught me on that. Ed.]

The honey season opened well with plenty of white clover, but intensely dry weather set in and continued until it all dried up, and as we have not much basswood here, the honey crop will be very light.

R. A. Fowler.

Emerald, July 16th, 1895.

My ten colonies have produced an average of 56 lbs. of honey. I will reply at greater length when the season is over.

A. H. Craig.

Powassan, July 15th, 1895.

As near as I can judge at present we will only have about half a crop of honey on account of the long drought. Only three good rains since the snow went off. We took off 3200 lbs. clover and about 1000 lbs. basswood from 80 colonies. We had 900 lbs. last year from the same number. We had a good basswood bloom but weather was poor through the best part of it. The crops are poor.

W. G. Russell.

Millbrook, July 21th. 1895.