

FOR THE CANADIAN POULTRY JOURNAL.

A Promising Outlook.

DEAR SIR,—I have not for a considerable time written anything for your valuable JOURNAL; but have been a very attentive and interested reader. You have given us from time to time all the information necessary for successful bee-keeping; but there is one thing that has been lacking which you cannot supply, and that is favorable honey seasons, without this all our knowledge amounts to little. For several years now my bees, instead of being a source of profit, have been a bill of expense to me, and had it not been for the deep interest I take in them and that I should almost feel lost without them, I would have retired altogether from the business. Along with the pleasure which I have derived from the care of bees there has been the hope that perhaps next season would bring better results and so I have persevered until the present time. I have a kind of premonition that the tide has turned and that better times are in store for us. The past winter, which has been so favorable for fall wheat has also been favorable to white clover and the high price of Alsike clover seed just now is inducing more of the farmers to go in for it. Besides, judging from my own, bees have wintered well and will be in good shape to do effective work when the honey flow sets in.

I set away twenty three colonies last fall, ten in the cellar and thirteen outside, packed in claff. Those in the cellar have not only all survived but, with one exception, are very strong. I have just taken them out and packed them in outside cases to prevent spring dwindling. And here I desire to state that I like these cases you manufacture very much. There were a few mistakes in those I received which gave me considerable extra trouble; but practice in their construction will prevent this in future. When everything fits all right they can be put together so easily and are so light and handy that they just fill the bill. Four out of the thirteen colonies in the clamp died from starvation although I had been at extra pains last fall in feeding them, giving about five pounds more than usual. The winter was so mild that Friend Clarkes "quiescent state" was wanting and so they consumed more stores. The remaining nine have queens and are for the most part very strong in bees. I will leave them in the clamp until June if, indeed, I do not leave them all summer. In former years I have removed them about this season and I am now convinced I have erred in so doing.

J. CARSWELL.

Bond Head, April 24th, 1891.

Friend Carswell, follow up this

same line, and give us something more frequently. What you say in reference to clover is true also in this section. The white clover appears thus far to be in most excellent condition and the sowing of Alsike will very much increase the amount of bee pasture. We are sorry for the mistake which was made in your clamps, but will be more careful in the future. This clamp will come in very handy this morning, when we are writing, this 28th day of April. Yesterday and last night the wind blew a hurricane from the west and north-west; to-day the temperature is quite cool, while yesterday and the day before were like hot July days. The heat seems to be all blown south. Slight flurries of sleet or snow are falling. Instead of bees tumbling over one another in trying to get into the hives with pollen to-day, all is quiet and there is scarcely a hum. They are waiting for the bright sun to make its appearance, and then they will leave their hives and visit the soft maples, which we planted for miles, about 10 years ago. Some of these trees are now 10 inches in diameter with top spreading from 20 to 30 feet. The bees are now beginning to enjoy the fruits of our labor, for when they come out, instead of having to go and hunt along the creek bottoms for alder or willow pollen they can strike these maples in any direction. Early pollen close to the apiary will assist in preventing spring dwindling, because bees that have to go half a mile to two miles for pollen are soon worn out and many that go never return. Whereas, if they had not this long journey to perform they would, perhaps, live for weeks to assist in brood rearing.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

They Threaten to Poison His Bees.

DEAR SIR,—As I promised you some time ago that I would write I will now do so and give you my little experience in bee-keeping. Previous to the year 1888 I had bought three succeeding swarms, but winter took them every time, as I did not know anything about bees, although I had them well packed.

In the spring of 1888 I got another swarm, it swarmed twice. I packed them in a box and they wintered well, and I began 1889 with three