

Space for the queen to deposit her eggs is necessary. To secure this the extractor may have to be used, or else full frames displaced by empty frames, by simply lifting out the former and placing them behind the division-board, or in upper story, if the contents are needed by the colony. There should be in each stock a vigorous queen. To have this in most cases a young queen should be there. For it is well known that a queen's egg-laying capacity is best seen during the month subsequent to her beginning to lay. Hence, when there is the slightest indication of decreasing egg-producing power, remove her. Bees in sufficient numbers to warm and feed the eggs and embryo should be on hand. And this number must not be estimated by the hive space they occupy in a hot day, but rather by that filled on some chilly day or evening which August or September furnishes frequently in this latitude. For if the brood is exposed by a withdrawal of the bees induced by the feeling of cold, the condition of the stock is rendered worse than had none of the exposed brood been there.

Separate the frames leaving at least two inches from centre to centre, that the cells on top half may be drawn out and stores deposited in best shape for access by bees in winter. Thus a process the opposite to that employed in spring when to make the most of the warming power of the bees we place the combs near each other.

Watch the weather; and on the approach of a cool spell, just do with the bees as we do with ourselves and our chambers—increase our clothing and close the openings. There is much utility to bees in being "happed" as the thoughtful human mother does her offspring when she feels a change from a warmer to a colder temperature is imminent.

And not later than first frost by which honey plants are killed, see that from twenty to thirty pounds of stores are in each hive. If there is a deficiency, feed either good honey or granulated sugar syrup in the proportions of two parts of sugar to one part of water and feed as rapidly as they can deposit it in cells.

If they are to be wintered on summer stands they will require to be surrounded by two walls from two to twelve inches apart, according to location and the material used in packing. The material used varies greatly—paper, mill seeds, flax and chaff, leaves, sawdust, straw and hay, wool and cotton, being used according to the fancy or convenience of the beekeeper. And if to be wintered in cellar, clamp or bee house, leave them in all cases alone. Any movement necessary in taking to winter repository should be done so carefully as not to break that "cluster"

they delight to form in the latter end of autumn and which seems so favorable to their longevity.

J. R. BLACK.

Garafaxa, Co. Wellington, Ont.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

#### FUTURE PROSPECTS.

**O**UR honey crop has once more been well nigh harvested, and although the crop—that is the average yield per colony—has not come up to the average yield of last year, bees came through the winter well generally, and the result is the honey crop of 1886 is larger than that of 1885.

A portion of our crop has found an outlet at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, and we will hope that the honey which is on its way to England may be the means of opening a large and permanent outlet for the future. But let us not be too sanguine, and, above all, let us make every effort to develop other fields, and resort to the best means of so doing. I have in my possession reports from a great many Canadian beekeepers, a goodly number of them extensive ones, and I am posted perhaps as well as most, if not any, as to the wholesale and retail price in Canada. Were I to give prices for which honey is being sold and bought in Canada, this year's crop, I would rudely open the eyes of many. It is being handled wholesale at prices ranging from 5½c. per lb. to 11½c. per lb., and retail from 16 lbs. for \$1 to 20 cts. per lb. These figures are for first class extracted clover, thistle, and, in some instances, a little Linden honey mixed with it.

I do not now speak of the prices at which the petty bee-keeper having only a few pounds of honey for sale has sold it, and, at which the "apiarist" has for so long cast the blame of helping to depreciate the price of honey, but I speak of large transactions.

Comb honey, although I have purchased at 10c. and 12½c. per lb., demands a steadier price, the production of it is more limited, the demand still keen and 14c. per lb. is a fair price at which to quote it. This great variation of price, wholesale and retail, giving us on the one hand perhaps more than a good honey profit, on the other slaughtering figures. To what shall we attribute it, this state of affairs? True in a large measure to causes over which we have no control, but is it not in a measure to improper organization. Most emphatically yes. In a paper read by Mr. T. W. Cowan before the conference of British bee-keepers on July 31st, and reported in the *British Bee Journal*, we have some suggestions thrown out from which we can draw valuable and practical conclusions for ourselves. The