

## The Apiary.

### Winter Care.

December brings us once more to winter. Our bees should be in winter quarters, wherever that may be; and they should be left alone as much as possible. In out-door wintering, a little additional packing may be placed over the bees to shield them from the extreme cold. Care should be taken to keep entrances from blocking up. A stick with a hook, or a wire with the same, no wider than to allow it to pass into all the entrances, should be used to draw out dead bees. And this instrument should be used frequently; it prevents the hive entrance being choked up, and the air from becoming foul in consequence; it also saves the bees the work of carrying the dead bees out, and also saves the lives of many vigorous bees, who perish from cold when flying out with their dead companions. Mice often prove very injurious in the apiary; they appear to love to locate above the warmth of the cluster of the hive, and be able to feed on the honey in the combs below. It is a difficult matter to control this. In a cellar it is less difficult, and in chaff hives or clamps, it is not so easy. The first symptom often is, that the bees will be seen carrying out at the entrance some of the packing; when they do this, the hive should be examined from the top, and care taken to destroy any mice that may be in the combs. The entrance of a hive should be so low that no mouse could gain access to the hive in that way.

A hive or clamp may be carefully constructed, and no holes left to invite mice; then, above the packing, the usual poison may be put to destroy any mice that do get in. It has been argued lately, that in winter the bees should not have much packing; this allows the sun to thaw out the combs every little while, and brings the bees out. But the benefit from this is disputed, as it is claimed the bees, when the sun shines, will spread out in the cluster, and occupy some of the outside combs. On the other hand, when the sun no longer strikes on the hive, it will rapidly lower in temperature, and every time some bees on the outside combs will become detached from the cluster and perish. This latter appears plausible, and it will doubtless be wiser to pack well and retain a more equable temperature in the hive. Bees venture too often out of the hive in winter; and upon cold, yet bright days, the bees will perish if they attempt to fly. It is the experience of very many, that the best colonies in the spring are those which have not made their appearance during the winter, and are often considered dead. They lose less in number, appear stronger, and consume less honey than those who are ready to pop out, when but little encouragement is given by the weather.

Now, just as the stockman selects his best stock to breed from, and watches every defect, and tries to not raise young from defective stock, so the bee-keeper should watch his bees. A colony which has been crossed, irritable and unpleasant to handle during summer, will often be found to consume very much honey, and perish in winter. Of course, other causes than the disposition of the bee may cause a colony to appear restless in winter; but, often it is the temperament of the bee which causes it, and such colonies should be marked and not multiplied in summer. This is a point well worth noting, and if more care were taken in this direction, bee-keeping would be a more profitable business.

### The Winter Season.

There is nothing like doing all we can to advance in the calling we may be in, be it from choice or necessity. Good periodicals and books should be taken, and meetings—conventions—should be attended. The one who knows the most may get an idea from the merest novice, which worked out, or thought out, will amply repay his attendance at a convention hundreds of miles distant. This should be regarded not as a pleasure, but as a necessary business expense, just as a good journal or paper should be regarded, not as a luxury but a necessity.

### Ventilation of Cellars.

This question is still a very important one and which still remains without a solution. It would be well to conduct a number of experiments in this direction. The strength of the colony, the amount of packing above the frames and the size of the entrance will doubtless have a material effect upon the ventilation. If a colony is strong and the packing above the frames is considerable, the temperature of the hive will be greater, and the interchange of air between the hive and the cellar greater; especially will this be the case if the temperature of the latter be upon the low side. A careful observer will notice symptoms of insufficient ventilation, the air will be foul, the hives moist and the bees restless. Of course the dead bees which drop from the hives or fly out should, if possible, be removed, also the entrances kept clear. The walls of the cellar may be very moist and yet sufficient ventilation exist. Experience will direct one much, and experience may be quickly gained by careful observation, and no bee-keeper can be successful without this.

Hens are as much out of place in the horse stable as are hogs in the parlor.

Cackling is not laying, and promising is not paying.—Creditors who have waited long for their money are well aware of this, and their patience grows feeble as the false promise is repeated. Thomas Fuller says, "Creditors have better memories than debtors, and are great observers of days and times."

The Germantown Telegraph recommends the following method of fattening chickens:—Build a coop with slatted bottom and elevate two feet from the ground. Let the house be dark. Put holes in the front so the fowls can put their heads through and eat and drink from troughs on the outside. Fill one trough with water, one with feed, and another with gravel, broken oyster shells, etc. Feed scalded or slightly boiled corn, the latter is the best, and mix with lard. Also give Indian meal and boiled potatoes, mashed together, for a change, as well as oats, boiled meat or meat scraps, three times a week. Occasionally give milk, with powdered charcoal in it, to drink. The latter whitens flesh.

The poultry editor of the National Stockman and Farmer remarks on the dry food question:—The more we see and hear and know of poultry, the more thoroughly are we convinced that thousands of chicks are killed annually by wet, sloppy food. The surroundings where such food is given are nearly always such as to invite disease. If you do not believe this try it. Place a hen with a young brood just off the nest, away off by themselves. You may give them crumbled bread or corn bread or crackers the first day or two, but let them eat from a clean, dry feed-board sprinkled with clean sand. Next give them cracked oats or wheat, alternating these with grains, but feeding from the board, which should be cleaned and have fresh sand every day. Give them nothing wet but water, and let the water-pail be away from the feed-board. See that the water is fresh and pure. Supply them with crushed bone, shells, chinaware and charcoal, and if you do not raise a fine, healthy brood, your experience is different from ours.

## Commercial.

ADVOCATE OFFICE, Nov. 28th., 1889.

### WHEAT.

So far as weather conditions go they have continued as favorable as need be during the past month for improving the condition of autumn sown wheat in Canada and the Central States. Rains have fallen, giving ample moisture for the time, and as yet no essential freezing has occurred. Outside of Michigan the condition of winter wheat is almost uniformly satisfactory.

The speculative wheat market at Chicago has not been particularly active, and the range of prices has been within moderate limits as a rule. The general position of the wheat trade appears to be healthy. The export movement is tending to enlargement. The latter indications justify the view that the season's harvest has been estimated at its full volume. The situation abroad as the information becomes more complete in regard to the late harvest has become stronger, so far as apparent requirements for the year are considered, although the markets continue to act on a basis of anticipated abundance. There is nothing in sight to justify depression in prices of wheat, and the supply so closely balances the needs that any unusual advance with the progress of the season, at least for some time to come, appears unlikely to occur.

The latest advices from Russia are to the effect that in the majority of the corn markets the tone of trade and position of prices had remained materially unaltered. However, in a few instances, the tendency was somewhat quieter compared with previous quotations. Supplies of grain, except in the East and Southeastern Exchanges, had not appreciably increased, and any augmentation was now hardly to be expected in view of the chance to rather unsettled weather. Foreign advices were less encouraging. In comparison with other cereal articles, oats have of late met the best enquiry. Offers of rye had, as hitherto, remained unimportant and this fact is mainly attributable to the exceedingly bad crop, and supplies will probably remain on a reduced scale for the rest of the season. This circumstance will induce consumers to turn all the more attention to potatoes, which, moreover, have yielded well this season.

Reerthom's London Corn Trade List makes the following comment:—"Sir J. B. Lawes' estimate of this year's wheat crop will doubtless come as a surprise upon the trade, which has hitherto believed that the crop has been 94 to 10 million quarters. It is indeed difficult to believe, after the splendid reports early in the season, that the average yield per acre is after all barely up to last year's, although there is abundant evidence that in the principal eastern wheat growing counties the yield is comparatively far worse than in the Southern and west in counties. This fact renders it, of course, the more possible that popular opinion may have been just as much in error this season in over estimating the crop, as it was last year in under estimating it, although the liberal farmers' deliveries are certainly in favor of the popular view."

### MANITOBA WHEAT.

The deliveries of Manitoba wheat by farmers have been large during the past week or two, having averaged about 75,000 to 90,000 bushels per day. Manitoba No. 1 hard sold up to 88c and 70c per bushel a few weeks ago, but is again down to 80c and 62c per bushel. On 'Change a few days ago a large quantity of No. 1 hard Manitoba wheat was offered at \$1.00 per bushel for May delivery, but 97½¢ was the best bid. A bid of 94½¢ was made for No. 2 hard for May delivery. On spot there have been sales of No. 1 hard at 91½¢ to 92c, and a round lot of No. 2 hard was placed at 89½¢. Sales of No. 1 hard along the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific lines have been made at 91½¢, 92c and 93c per bushel. Last year about this time No. 1 hard sold in this market as high as \$1.35 and \$1.37½ per bushel, which contrasts strangely with present prices. The quality of all the samples of new Manitoba wheat shown us so far has been very choice and the flour made therefrom is most excellent.

The Munger, Wheeler & Co. grain elevators at Chicago, eight in number, having a capacity of 6,500,000 bushels, have passed into the hands of a new corporation, known as the City of Chicago Elevators Company, Limited. The capitalization is \$4,500,000, represented chiefly by English holders. The elevator system of G. W. Van Dusen & Co., of Minnesota, has also gone into the hands of English capitalists, the new corporation being known as the Chicago & North-West Granaries Company, Limited. The C. A. Pillsbury & Co. and W. D. Washburn flouring mill plants, at Minneapolis, have passed into the control of English capitalists.

### CORN.

The low price of Indian corn has undoubtedly induced an unprecedentedly large consumption both in England and on the Continent. Since the commencement of the present year the imports of maize into the United Kingdom have aggregated no less than 50,000,000 bushels, as compared with 39,306,000 bushels for the corresponding period in 1888. The Mark Lane Express says that "Indian corn continues to sell very freely in this country whenever the price is anything below five-and-twenty shillings for fine round, or about 22s for American mixed grain. The yellow corn of La Plata is of considerable intrinsic excellence, but it reaches us for the most part in such unsatisfactory condition that it commands but little custom at