

bee-keeping a success in the section of country in which he resides.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

A Discouraging Report From the North West

I HAVE given up bees for a bad job. In this locality and for a good many miles east and west the forage is quite incapable of sustaining them. Clover is also a failure, growing well the first year and dead the next. I don't know meanwhile of any artificial pasture that will succeed. I can winter bees here better than in Ontario. At 40° they know nothing of winter under heaps of hay and snow with proper ventilation to this great chaff cushion. Hives in the North West should be double to resist the effect of cold from time to time, after spring comes, for we have frequent and considerable depression and winds. I had bees here four years and I gave them a fair trial.

J FOTHERINGHAM.

Grenfell, Assa. N. W. T.

We are sorry to hear that in your locality bees cannot get forage enough to make them do well. There are many places in the Northwest where they do splendidly. We are glad though that you have succeeded in wintering, and know that they may be wintered more easily there than in Ontario. I believe you to be correct, and one reason is that the atmosphere is drier there and the cold steadier. Of course if we can keep bees dry in cold weather with plenty of good stores, there is no danger of them freezing to death.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Destroying Surplus bees.

A NEW VIEW,—AND A LIVE ONE SAYS THE WRITER.

A QUESTION which I would like to see discussed in the C. B. J. is the best method of disposing of surplus bees in the fall. There is no demand, or at least a very limited one for bees in this locality, and I fail to see the benefit of uniting when a person can select as many first-class colonies as he cares to winter. A medium sized colony with a young queen suits me best for wintering indoors; large united colonies are seldom any better the following spring than good average ones which have not been tampered with. I think that a locality where there is usually a fall flow of honey the best management is to allow a reasonable increase, and then if a person has more colonies than required and cannot sell to advantage the best plan is to destroy them. I know the editor does not approve of killing bees

and I don't wish to "rile" him by mentioning it, but the question is a live one with me and no doubt is with others also. I destroyed fifteen colonies this fall and expect to do the same with fifty to one hundred next year, and each year after, unless I find a better plan.

If anyone has had any experience in disposing of surplus stock in this way I would be pleased to learn their methods through the JOURNAL. I would like to learn of an easy, cheap, cleanly and quick way to destroy bees, which can be used as soon as the combs are free of brood in the fall. I have tried burning sulphur in a smoker, and putting it in at the entrance, and also shaking the bees off the combs in frosty weather. The first plan is dirty and slow, and the last is very uncomfortable on account of cold brittle combs and the fashion the bees have of getting into a person's ears, hair, clothes, and staying there until they are brushed off or get chilled. By waiting for cold weather there is quite a loss in honey. I have frequently found by weighing colonies at different times in the fall that they consume about two pounds per colony per month between the time they cease raising brood until going into winter quarters. If a person has 100 colonies to destroy, it would be quite an item on the loss side by keeping them an extra week or so. What is wanted is a plan which can be put in force as soon as the combs are free of brood, and as I said before, a plan which is easy, cheap, quick and clean.

I have heard people say it is cruel to destroy the poor little bees after they have worked so hard to store honey for their owner. Such talk is childish and might just as well be used as an argument against killing any domestic animal. I keep bees for the same reason that many others keep cows and poultry, for the money I hope to make with them, and like them, when I find it is more profitable to destroy some of my stock than to keep it, I do so.

The question is just this, when a person has more bees than he can attend to (even if he winters them) and can neither sell them nor give them away, what is the best thing to do? I hope to see this question well ventilated in the C. B. J. soon.

EXTRACTING HONEY LATE IN THE FALL OR WINTER.

I have about 500 pounds of capped honey in combs, which I have kept for spring feeding, but if it is not required I will extract it if I can do so by the plan given in C. B. J. some time ago, of placing the combs over hot water. I know from experience that it is almost impossible to extract our fall honey after it has been sealed, even in a high temperature. The