

When I tell you that the bees deserted the sections for the body of the hive during some days in July and August, some of our drawbacks are apparent. James Heddon once declared that our section was not as good as that of southern Michigan for honey, and I don't now dispute him in the least. Knowing these to be facts, I had decided to confine myself exclusively to producing extracted (although it is like pulling teeth to sell it) and a person must adopt the tactics of McKnight if he wishes to produce much "l'argent," as our natives term it. Mr. Heddon told me that he had a new hive which would fill the bill, and I have been agreeably surprised with it. Henceforth I shall use them exclusively and I think the best strain of the Brown German, as the whiter the comb the better the honey sells. I don't want any more extracted honey on my plate. The store-keepers up here say: "Oh, I tried to sell some once, but I had almost to give it away, as the purchasers thought it was adulterated!" Last summer I put on an empty case on top of that the bees were working in, filled it with paper and rags, and it seemed to retain the heat and keep the bees in the sections during our cool summer nights better than otherwise. I hope that your new section-supers will fill the bill in all respects. One thing is certain, that all systems admit of improvement, and he that thinks otherwise will probably find the motto of the age is "Excelsior." Bees commenced flying on the 25th instant.

GEORGE J. MOLONEY.

Cheboygan, Michigan.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

A Report Showing Consumption of Stores per Colony.

FOUR years ago in June a friend made me a present of a colony of bees (hybrids) in an old Jones hive, so that I have not had a very extensive experience in the business. But as part of it, at least, may be of some interest to your readers, I herewith give it as briefly as possible. I use the improved Langstroth frame 17½x9½ inches outside measurement; all my hives contain eight frames, but Nos. 15 and 16, and they hold ten frames. Last spring I commenced with eight colonies and increased to eighteen. I have an extractor, but so far I have taken nearly all my surplus honey in one-pound sections, which sell readily here at 15c. each. I cannot tell how much surplus honey I took last year, however I think my bees did fairly well considering the poor season. I use starters in sections and about one-half or one-third of a sheet in brood frames. Would

rather put in full sheets of foundation in brood frames if I could keep them from sagging or breaking down. I winter in a room partitioned off the cellar for that purpose. The room is under my dwelling, which is right on the main street. It is dark as night all the time, and the temperature was pretty steady all winter at 45°. I put them all in a row on two scantlings placed about eighteen inches from the floor so that the mice could not get up to the bees. You will notice that I weighed each colony about one month before I put them in the cellar, then again when I carried them in on the 28th November, '87, and again five months afterwards, as I carried them out to summer stands, and before I cleaned off the bottom boards. Colonies No. 5, 6, 7 and 8 showed slight symptoms of dysentery, and I put them out for a fly on the 16th of April and back again at night. I would like to Italianise some or all of my bees this season if I could do so without costing too much. I left bottom boards and quilts on and covers off with the following result.

Weight 24th Sep. '87	Put in 28th Nov. '87	Put out 28th Ap. '88	Condition when put out
No.			
1	66 lbs.	65 lbs	Bees gone
2	55 "	52 "	41 lbs.
3	61 "	59 "	45 "
4	55 "	52 "	42 "
5	61 "	58 "	41 "
6	53 "	49 "	35 "
7	58 "	54 "	39 "
8	45 "	44 "	31 "
9	60 "	52 "	42 "
10	47 "	44 "	37 "
11	44 "	41 "	34 "
12	54 "	50 "	40 "
13	48 "	42 "	33 "
14	56 "	52 "	43 "
15	62 "	58 "	45 "
16	62 "	58 "	47 "
17	38 "	38 "	37 "
18	39 "	37 "	33 "

J. ROWAT.

West Winchester, Ont., May 1st, 1888

Leaving the first colony out of consideration, as the bees had deserted it you will find that the average pounds per colony consumed was somewhat under eleven. This is a fairly low average, and is about what one would expect when the temperature was kept in a pretty steady position. We are pleased to have your report in this way.