

vince the executors that they would have no bees in the spring if they did not replenish the stores before they gave out entirely. This they did not feel inclined to do and the consequence is that this spring all the bees were dead, and nothing remained but the hives and combs, so that we did not get the chance that we thought we were going to have. In reply to your last question, we should say that perhaps it would be as well if you were to double up the colony with the next weakest one. We have no great desire to sell bees by the pound, and at the price which we ask we would not make a fortune. Just at the present time, a pound of bees is to us worth more than we ask for them and the bee-keepers who sell bees by the pound less than the prices quoted by us in Canada are doing so at a loss, especially at the present time. A little later on we could afford to take less figures and on reference to our price list it will be found that prices are much reduced.

WINTERING AT A LOW TEMPERATURE.

J. C. ELLIOTT.—In sending for a few goods I think that perhaps it would be as well if I were to let you know how my bees came through the winter. I have been very unfortunate, and am ashamed to send my report to the BEE JOURNAL. In the winter of 1885 and 1886 I lost forty-seven out of 100 colonies. Last year I lost forty-eight out of ninety-one. It is now about six years since I was with you, and since then I have worked hard and persistently to make a success of the business. I have a fine stock of nearly everything necessary for carrying on the business, which cost me \$750, all of which I made out of them as I went along, but what is the use of all this without bees, and bees I must have as long as there is a ray of hope. I have bargained with a man near here, who has a lot of colonies in box hives, to fill up a lot of the empty hives with swarms. I can manage bees in the summer, but the winter beats me entirely. I have a bee-house with sawdust walls twenty-two inches thick, but somehow I cannot make it warm enough, and it oftentimes goes as low as 6° or 7° below freezing point during cold and windy weather. I am now building up my bees for next winter in packing behind the division-board. I had twelve put up this year with sawdust cushions, shavings, etc., and these all came out clean and dry with no signs of dysentery, while nearly all the others (although some of them had cushions on top) were in a very bad state and the bottom-boards were covered with dead bees and the combs dripping with moisture, while great numbers left their hives and died on the floor. Had twenty-seven colonies in your combination hives, and I lost all of them but four, and three of the four are weak. I am almost afraid to put bees in them again. Did you winter any in them, if so, how did they come

out? I had mine covered with clean quilts but I think perhaps they should have had cushions to keep in the heat. A man near here, who keeps a few bees in box hives, buries them every winter, and he generally takes them out in good shape. Last year he put up seven in this way and five of them came out in good condition. I tried five on the same plan and had one come through alive with but a few bees and queen, and this hive was affected with dysentery. I intend tightening up the doors and ventilators of my bee-house and making it warm, if possible, for next winter, and pack behind the division-board on top and give them another trial. If you can give me any advice it will be thankfully received.

Carleton Place, May, 1887.

Truly you have had hard luck, but the main trouble seems to have been that your repository has been too cold. If you can by, any means, arrange your house so that the temperature can be kept at between 42° and 45° right through the winter. You had better put a small oil stove in the house and temper the atmosphere in that way. There are quite a number of bee-keepers who have had to try this plan and all have reported it as favorable. By arranging a tin tube from the stove to the outside air, any gas which might be generated by the coal oil stove, would be carried off and would not affect the bees injuriously. We would not guarantee that bees in our combination hive will winter satisfactorily in the temperature you mention. If you will refer to the report of Mr. Laing in a late issue of the JOURNAL you will ascertain how his bees came out in the combination hive, and where he tells us that all the colonies which were wintered in the combination hive came through in good shape.

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BUSINESS DEPARTMENT.

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