

and read everything in it. Then I became a subscriber for the C.B.J., believing that it would be more profitable for me to take a paper that contained more items of news from northern bee keepers, *Gleanings* contained so much southern news, that we, in the north, were sometimes led astray.

I have now had five years' experience with bees; I have not yet obtained the fortune, neither have I been in blighted hopes. The amount of knowledge I have received in bee-keeping, is worth to me all the expense, trouble and hard work I have had during these five years.

In the summer of 1883 I purchased six colonies of bees; some were blacks and some were Italians. From these I took about 40 lbs. of honey. In the fall I put them into winter quarters in a piano box, without any packing, and in the spring I had some honey, plenty of comb—but no bees. In the summer of 1884 I bought another six colonies of bees; from these I took about 50 lbs. of honey. In the fall I packed two colonies in chaff in large boxes, but lost both. I put four colonies in the cellar, which came out fairly good, with one queenless colony, but by spring dwindling I lost all but one colony. During the summer this increased to four, and yielded 50 lbs. of extracted honey. In the fall of 1885 I put four colonies into the cellar, just as I did the year before, with the exception of upward ventilation. I kept the hives closed on top and lost all my bees. In the summer of 1886 I bought one new swarm, wintered it in the cellar successfully, with upward ventilation. This colony came out in the spring of 1887 in good condition, and increased to five colonies, but no honey. I put them into the cellar Nov. 17, giving them upward ventilation. During the winter the thermometer stood from 42° to 38°, until about April 1, when it began to rise a little. I took the bees out of the cellar on the 25th of April. I found eggs and sealed brood, and I think there were some young bees. On the 27th of April the bees were very busy bringing in pollen. On the 8th of October my bees weighed as follows: No. 1, 46 lbs.; No. 2, 47 lbs.; No. 3, 45 lbs.; No. 4, 46 lbs.; No. 5, 38 lbs. On the 25th of April their weight stood thus: No. 1, 30 lbs.; No. 2, 31½ lbs.; No. 3, 30 lbs.; No. 4, 30½ lbs.; No. 5, 23 lbs. The average consumption of honey and loss of bees was 15½ lbs.

My bees have cost me now \$70; the profits amount to \$61. This includes hives, sections, frames and five colonies of bees, besides the honey we have taken from time to time. Should I reckon the value of five years' experience, the balance would be on the other side.

REV. S. CUNNINGHAM.

WATERFORD, MAY 4, 1888.

This report is well-timed and will be read with interest, we are sure. It gives a history which will cover a great many cases. Do we understand that you have now \$61 worth of bees, hives, sections, etc., as present stock against the \$70 which your bees, etc. have cost you? Then we presume you have had sufficient honey from time to time to supply your wants.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

A GOOD WORD FOR CHAFF HIVES.

SOMETHING ABOUT STIMULATIVE FEEDING.

WHERE!—you have all gone and given your plans for spring management before I had time to write; but I will tell you how we feed to stimulate brood rearing. And here let me say I cannot speak too highly in favor of the chaff hive for wintering and springing bees. We have wintered in frost-proof repository, and in a good cellar, but the chaff hive is best, and we leave the chaff on till the bees are actually too warm. And now for spring feeding. We have the upper storey filled with loose chaff. We prefer it to a cushion, for the bees cannot creep up around it. Under this chaff on top of the frames we place our simplicity feeders, a hole through the quilt and a tube running down through the chaff through this, through which we pour a little feed every evening from a can like a coal oil can, keeping the tube corked or they would let the heat escape. This feeding should not be commenced till bees can gather natural pollen, and then continued when they are not gathering any honey. For spring feeding use as many pounds of water as granulated sugar. Keep the bees on just what combs they can cover, giving them room as they need it. This is considerable work, but with an assistant to lift the cover it is quickly done, for it only requires a little feed, say half a tea-cupful per colony. We sold our strongest swarms last spring keeping the weakest except two, and we secured over sixty pounds per colony extracted honey, poor season as it was.

ILA MICHENER.

Lowbanks, May 4, 1888.

Friend Michener has come out at last, and we hope to have him with us regularly in future. Why cannot every one who reads THE JOURNAL give us ideas every little while. It is worth trying. You not only have the satisfaction of seeing your article in print, but also of having written something that is going to assist your neighbor.