

The prospect for a large yield of honey is anything but encouraging. Last year the drought from the 20th of August to the 12th of October deprived the flowers entirely of nectar, and with long cold Winter and late wet Spring, all our colonies commenced the season very weak and just now becoming strong for surplus honey, but for the last three weeks we have had a very hot dry spell and the flowers are giving forth but little honey. The swamps and lagoons are drying up, and that will reduce the yield from our vines and aquatic plants. Most of our creepers grow more luxuriantly along the margins of our lagoons and to a great extent in them. I have some photographic views of my apiary, and also a few specimens of our flowers that I will send you. A succession of showers now will be our salvation. I have extracted so far only 5000 lbs. and most of that is of an inferior quality. At my "Refuge" apiary, twelve miles distant, the bees gathered a great deal of aphides honey and I found considerable patches of pupæ dead. I am satisfied their death was caused from being fed on the filthy stuff. One of my neighbors, fifteen miles distant, reports the same condition in his apiary. So you see we have our drawbacks as well as other portions of this continent. I expect to realize only a half crop, unless we have a heavy yield in September as sometimes occurs when we have occasional showers and most of our flora takes on a second bloom. This Spring in putting my colonies in order, I found two with active pretty queens, but no brood and not an egg. I killed one queen and dissected her and could discover no trace of any. The other I kept on trial, and in ten days I examined her and she was laying splendidly. There were no signs of fresh queen cells and I concluded that these queens were hatched in the Fall too late to go to the drones and become fertilized in the Spring. I gave your frames a fair trial in one hive, and am now satisfied that the shallow Langstroth frame is the frame for our Southern country, and from my long experiences the twenty frame (cold) Langstroth hive is the *sine qua non* for the bee-keeper that works for extracted honey.

Thanks, friend Blanton for your letter. We are sorry to hear that you are not getting the tons of honey that you usually get every year; but since that pleasant time we had in Cincinnati we imagine that adversity will not effect you as you appear to be one of those who will accept gracefully, the results, be they favourable or unfavorable.

HENRIETTA F. BULLER, CAMPBELLFORD, ONT.—

As this is the 1st of May I think I may safely send you a report of my success in wintering my bees, and when I hear of the heavy losses sustained by bee-keepers generally throughout the country, I feel that I have no reason to complain at losing two colonies out of nineteen, one of four packed out of doors, and one out of fifteen in bee house. The one that died out of doors I think was smothered by the entrance being blocked by the dead bees inside. I think I gave them too many frames in the Fall, and they (the frames) were too full of honey. The strongest colony outside was one I united in the Fall, and there were so many bees I had to leave them ten frames. They seemed to have consumed no more honey than the other colonies with fewer bees, and covered six frames very well when I examined them on the 16th of April, which after having had no flight for five months and seven days was not bad, was it? I brought some of my bees out of house on the 17th of April and the remainder on the 23rd, and can assure you I was pleased to find them in fine condition, as strong in bees and as healthy looking as I ever had them in the Spring, though my house was rather cold, most of the time not above 36°, and in the coldest weather only 32° to 34°. The colonies I united in the Fall did very well and do not appear to have consumed much more honey than the others, but as I had no way of weighing the hives I cannot tell exactly. Colonies fed with a mixture of white sugar syrup and honey have done quite as well as those fed with syrup alone, and I find no difference in quilts made with cotton batting over frames and cushions of sawdust or cork shavings. I find it a good plan in your hives to make a hole in the side half way up and near the division board, left open in the house without wire gauge over it so that the bees can come out if they wish. The only colony I lost in the house was two very late swarms which I united and I blame the poor honey which I imagine was the cause of the very general mortality. Besides my own, my brother's and Capt. Tice's, I only know of fifteen colonies having survived in this township, and Brighton and Percy from what I hear have fared no better. I should like to tell Mr. P. W. Jones, of Amherst, that in my opinion he signed the death warrant of his bees when he packed them in shavings. The CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL quite comes up to my expectations and I hope it will continue to be a credit to its country for very many years.

We have received several favorable reports from lady beekeepers. It begins to look as if the ladies were going to