

them a lot of money, whether there is honey to get or not. Many bees did not swarm anything to brag of last year, but wintered well. There were a great many bees lost around me. They would not spend 5 cents on the little bee to make him snug for the cold nights of winter; and you can't tell them anything—they have kept bees all their life-time, and that is the way father kept them. My bees wintered well, and built up well in the Spring. The clover flow has been good this year. I can't speak so well for the basswood, but I think in some places it was somewhat better than around here. As the thistle crop is kept down around here, I can't speak much for them. The buckwheat crop has just started; and it seems to be good this year. The bees have swarmed well, and are in good shape for winter.

CHARLES STANGER.

Rebecca, Middlesex Co., Ont.

1. How was swarming last year (1895)? Not any.
2. How did the bees winter in your vicinity? Very poor.
3. How did bees build up in the spring? They were very weak.
4. How has the clover flow been? Very good.
5. How has the basswood flow been? Very good.
6. How has the thistle flow been? Very good.
7. What are prospects for buckwheat flow? Very good.
8. How has swarming been this year? Very good.

G. L. Pearson.

Clarksburg, Grey Co., Ont.

As the wintering problem will soon trouble us again I wish to give you some of my experience, and also ask your advice as to my bee cellar. I wintered 19 outside, packed in clamps with sawdust around them, about 3 inches in front, 6 to 10 inches on top and at the back. The quilts were not disturbed; the entrances were all sizes from 3x5 inches to 3x10 inches, but the hallways were not always as wide as the hive entrance. I was particular to keep the entrances free from snow. All wintered well and came out strong.

My cellar is a room under my dwelling, which is built on a bank of gravel, and there is no drain required from the cellar. I was particular to have the walls built of land stone, as I understood river stone was liable to sweat. The bee room which is

one of three, is 3x3 and the furnace smoke pipes pass across one end of it. As I found this made it too warm I partitioned off about five feet of the end where the pipe passes through, and put a door in the partition, which I open and shut to regulate the temperature of the room. There is one window with a pit outside which is loosely covered with boards, and a stovepipe in the boards for ventilation. The window is hung from the top so that by a rope running over the hives to the door it can be opened as desired. There was always a little light from this window, about enough to count the hives by, except in the corners of the room, but the bees did not attempt to fly to it. The hives were drawn back so as to project about two inches behind the bottom boards, and the sealed quilts were left on, no cushions were used.

On moving them in I found four very weak hives and I fed them about one month after putting them in; ten pounds of syrup each, made in the usual way (I always boil mine). I fed in Jones and Miller feeders. The bees soon took down the feed, and I gave them a fly one warm day. Finding later on that these four hives seemed still too light I gave them each another ten pounds of syrup. They came through first class. I put 25 hives in the cellar and only lost two, and they died of starvation; the rest came out clean and nice. I should have stated I kept the temperature as near 45° as possible, and found no difficulty in raising or lowering it until April, when I could not keep it below 50°, and I then took them out. I swept off the dead bees from the floor after the hives were carried out and found they weighed just nine pounds. I suppose one pound of that would be dead off the cement floor. Now, although the bees came out in good shape from the cellar they were not to be compared to those wintered outside. I estimate there were more bees in two of the hives wintered outside than in any three of those in the cellar at any time up to July, after that there was not so much difference.

There are two things on which I would like your opinion. Is there any advantage in raising the hives on blocks over simply drawing them back so that they project over the bottom boards, and in the case of a dry cellar which can be warmed to some extent like mine, are cushions of any use?

In view of my experience I don't think sealed stores are very important except in damp cellars.

J. D. EVANS

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