

A grim Editor will be the same whether in a picture gallery, or in his private sanctum.

[You do not appear to realize that I was trying to appear reconciled to having my picture taken alongside of yours. Ed.]

Size of Hive Entrances and Covers.

—T. E. BAINARD.

Two years ago I used several bee hives with entrances seven eighths of an inch by eleven and one half inches. I liked them so well that I have scarcely used any other size since.

Entrances as large as this are used by a large number of bee-keepers during the summer season, but how many have used it for outside wintering? Last winter I tried a dozen for the first time, mice guards were cut out of hardwood, one quarter of an inch by one inch and eleven and one half inches long: these were crowded into each entrance leaving a bee space both above and below the guard. This winter thirty-five colonies have large entrances. Yes, and no mice guards are being used; these are wintering better than the other eight with the three eighths inch entrance. The colonies are all packed alike, four in a case, packed with tight straw four inches thick and seven-eighths inch sealed covers.

The summer alighting board is leaned up in front of each hive as a snow and wind break.

All hive entrances are made very small in the spring.

Why are bee hive covers made so small? Being so small they are of little value except for about four months in the year. That is, those that winter outside.

Why not make the covers about twenty inches wide and twenty-four inches long, using two ten inch boards in their construction, covering the space between the edges with cotton cloths well painted. A cover of this size would afford very good shade for summer and four of them could be used to cover a wintering case containing four colonies. This cover made of ten inch lumber will not cost any more than a fourteen inch cover.

St. Thomas, Ont., March 6th, 1899.

[There are a great many matters to consider in wintering bees. I believe that

with certain other conditions, a wide and large entrance may be used, and under certain other conditions a small entrance is desirable. To master the wintering problem all the conditions must be considered. As to hive covers, expense has much to do with the question. Our new galvanized iron top with two inches or more of packing fills the bill. In selling it we make less money on the hives, but we hope to get, and we are getting, an increased demand for the hives.

Large as last seasons trade was, we have already sold at this date, March 11th, about two thirds as many hives as we sold all last season. Ed.]

What Should not be Done.

—JAS. ARMSTRONG.

Don't buy a large number of colonies of bees to start with, get a few colonies at first and then you will get bees as fast as you can handle them profitably.

Don't be opening the hive every day or two or three times a day.

Don't go to work to invent a hive of your own. If you do the chances are you will rue it before you are in business very long.

Don't get it into your head that you know it all, for if you do, you will be sure to get it knocked out some day when you are not thinking.

Don't extract your honey before it is capped.

Don't buy every new thing that comes along, that is supplies, queens, bees, etc.

Don't take any stock in patent right men. Give them the G B as soon as they come in the yard and don't forget it.

Don't ship your honey to strangers unless you know them to be all right.

Don't keep anything dirty around your honey.

Don't buy poor supplies because you get them cheap, buy nothing but the best and get the standard goods every time.

Get them from the Goold, Shapley & Muir Company, and you will not make any mistake.

Cheapside, Ont., Feb. 9th, '99.

[As Mr. Armstrong deals some in supplies himself, this is a high compliment which the company will try and deserve.]