

Q u e r i e s — A N D — A n s w e r s

[Department conducted by Mr. R. H. Smith, St. Thomas, Ontario. Queries may sent direct to Mr. Smith or to the office of the Canadian Bee Journal.]

QUESTION

"I have a place 7 ft. high and 8 ft. square with walls 14 inches thick made of thin boards with sawdust between. Sometimes in the winter here it gets to 30 degrees of frost Rmr. that is, 36.4 Faht. below zero, if suitable for wintering bees how many colonies can I winter in this with safety?"

"I should also like to know why you clip half of a queen's wing."—H. Kirkham, Vladimer, Russia.

ANSWER

At the spring meeting of the Middlesex Beekeepers' Association, two bee-keepers gave reports of wintering bees in repositories somewhat similar to the one described in the above question. In the one case the bees came out in good condition and with little loss. In the other the bees nearly all had died, and what was left were in a weak condition. In the first instance the building was so nearly filled with hives of bees that the heat arising from them kept the temperature of the room about right, and in the other case the building was too large for the number placed in it. The temperature fell to the freezing point or lower and remained there for a long time, the walls of the building being packed it was not affected by a change in the temperature outside, consequently it acted like a refrigerator, one of the worst possible conditions for success-

fully wintering bees. I would not hesitate to put bees into a building of the description given, providing I had enough to fill it. I would place them in tiers, the hive at the bottom of each tier to be about 15 inches from the floor; then raise the hive from the bottom board on half inch blocks, place the next hive on top of this in the same manner as high as they can be built up, the tiers to be three inches apart and the rows 12 inches apart. There should be a ventilating shaft to the outside with a slide so that it may be partially closed up in the severest weather if necessary.

We clip the queens to prevent the risk of them absconding at swarming time, and clip half of one wing because it is more effective than to clip both.

QUESTION

"I have a number of combs on which bees died during the last winter. Some of them are partially filled with partly granulated honey which seems to be fermenting. Would these combs be all right for swarms, or can they be extracted?"

ANSWER

If there was only a little honey in the comb I would give swarms of them, otherwise I would extract all and could and boil it to stop the fermentation and use it for feeding.

QUESTION

"Can you suggest a way that will induce bees to work on sections? Had a colony that seemed to do all right on extracting frames, but since I have given them comb honey supers they do not seem to enter it, and are preparing to swarm."
Quebec

ANSWER

There is a great difference in colonies of bees, some will enter

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