

In answer to your list of questions received a few days ago, I will say that, the swarming in this vicinity was very good, averaging one swarm from each hive. Wintered very badly. I lost 60 per cent. of mine, while others, lost all they had. The cause, in my opinion, was impure honey, as there was no more gathered after the 20th of July, and many bees died with plenty of honey in the hive. In almost all cases, the bees built up quickly. The clover flow this year, has been very abundant. There is no basswood in this part of the country, and thistles and buckwheat are scarce. This year, swarming has been very good, the Italian bees throwing off more swarms than our own. On the whole, the bees have done exceedingly well this season.

E. W. OGDEN.

Sackville. N. B., Aug. 19th, 1896.

In connection with the honey flow report from this vicinity it might be termed about the same as last year. White clover did not yield so well, but there was a fairly good basswood flow, which made up for the deficiency in clover. Bees fairly well attended to, average between 45 and 50 lbs per colony this year. Swarming was very light last year. Bees wintered fairly well in this vicinity last winter. Swarming was rather light this year also; I attribute the cause to cool and windy weather which lasted during the swarming season. The prospects for a buckwheat flow are not very favorable at present although very much needed in order to give the busy bee a chance to store up a good supply for the winter season.

JNO. R. SHAW.

Alexandria, Glengarry Co., Ont. Aug. 20th, 1896.

Yours of the 8th inst. received. In reply I should say, that there were very few swarms in this locality last year, but the bees wintered very well. This spring the bees built up very slow, although there was always lots of brood, but the bees seemed to disappear, and the colony to get no stronger. There was a very fair clover flow this year, and a splendid basswood flow; but the thistle flow did not amount to much. The buckwheat in this locality has just come into full blossom, and the bees are working nicely on it. If this showery weather keeps on, there ought to be lots of buckwheat honey this fall.

The swarms this year were very thick, but were much later than usual. I am

Yours truly,

THOS. W. FARMER.

Ancaster, Ont., Aug. 12th, 1896.

In reply to questions of August 8th, I would say:

1. As regards swarming in 1895. Very few swarms.
2. Bees wintered very well with me.
3. Bees built up very fast this spring.
4. Clover flow has been good.
5. Basswood flow midling.
6. Thistle flow; not many thistles in this locality.
7. Prospects for buckwheat good.
8. Swarming has been unusually great.

H. HOLDEN.

Port Dover, Norfolk Co., Ont.

The following are my answers in reply to your printed circular of 8th inst.

1. Had only one small swarm early in August 1895, out of six colonies, but it gathered enough honey from sweet clover to winter all right outside

2. Very well.

3. Very rapidly owing to the early and continued warm weather.

4. Not very good.

5. There is very little basswood about here.

6. Not of much account.

7. Very little buckwheat sown here.

8. The swarming has been excessive. The bees seem to have a mania for swarming.

I might remark that the sweet clover is what we depend on here now. It makes the very best of honey and quite equal to basswood.

J. FERGUSON.

Amherstbury, Essex Co., Aug. 17, '96.

1. Excessive. Wishing increase I encouraged it.

2. Lost 5 per cent. Balance rather weak. Packed in sawdust four inches on sides, to inches on top.

3. In early spring, they spring-dwindled some and two or three colonies suffered considerably from bee-paralysis, which disease spread until nearly colony was more or less affected, the symptoms lasting from one to two weeks in each colony as a rule, although some lasted much longer. One has been affected all season although now quite strong in bees. April 26th to May 18th built up very rapidly. May 18th to June 3rd, cold that two queens stopped laying. Much brood chilled. Three or four colonies nearly starved.

4. Apparently very good but bees seem to prefer raspberry, which was in bloom at the same time.

5. The best in years, but weather too cool and wet the greater part of the time.

6 and 7. None here but abundance of goldenrod.