

## SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

### A MUSKOKA BEE-KEEPER'S REPORT.

J. BULL.—Dear Sir,—As I have sent you no report since I commenced bee-keeping, I now send you a short account of my bee-keeping. In June, 1884, I bought a colony of bees from D. A. Jones, which swarmed four times but gathered no surplus honey. I put two best swarms in Jones' double-walled hives, the others in hives of my own make, and left them on their summer stands. The old colony and two last swarms I packed in chaff in a large box made to hold three hives, and left a small entrance to each. I fed them a considerable quantity of sugar, but I found them all dead before spring. In June, '85, I bought another colony from Mr. E. Shultz, of Lethbridge, which I divided into two, and put them into my cellar in good condition, but fearing they would not have enough feed to winter, I fed them some candy in March, after which they became so restless I could not keep them in. I set them out and a lot of them flew out and died. Spring found them in middling condition but they got along well. Before the honey flow I divided them, making two new colonies from each old one and afterwards lost a swarm from one of them. They did not give much surplus, but I put the six colonies in the cellar in good condition with plenty of stores without feeding, all in double-walled hives and a cover of loose chaff two or three inches thick. Cellar ranged from  $38^{\circ}$  to  $48^{\circ}$ . I set them all out about April 10th; two were dwindled down and were very weak, but the other four were fair. I increased by swarms and dividing to eighteen and lost two swarms. I took from 150 to 175 pounds of extracted honey, but found they needed feeding in the fall to keep up brood-raising, and fed them eight to ten lbs. syrup for winter. I intended to feed more but cold weather came on before I could get sugar, so I put them in as they were. I put them in on 29th Oct., they were restless for some time but seem very quiet now. I expect they will want more feed before spring. Which is the best way to feed, and when will be the best time. I have vegetables in the cellar with the bees, and I am afraid if I start to feed they will become restless, and will be coming out when the cellar is opened to get vegetables. The temperature ranges from  $42^{\circ}$  to  $48^{\circ}$ . Seven are in double-walled hives, and the rest in single; all are covered with loose chaff, and behind the division-board is filled up with the same. If you will kindly tell me what to do through the C.B.J. I shall be obliged. I read in C.B.J. of your visit to Mr. E. Schultz. I am pleased to bear testimony to the kindness and hospitality of Mr. Schultz and his wife. If you have time for a little hunt next fall I should be pleased to see you at Uffington and to talk bees with you. I am no sportsman myself, but I have friends here who do a little in that line. This is a nice place for hunting, and though deer are not as plentiful now as at one time, there are still some to be found.

Uffington, Ont., Jan. 2nd, 1888.

Thanks for your very kind invitation to visit you and hunt. We are glad to hear that you have succeeded so well in

bee-keeping after a partial failure at first. Those who have slight reverses when they start out in the bee business and overcome all obstacles, usually make our best apiculturists. With a large increase you could not expect to get much honey, and especially in seasons as unfavorable as the last three or four. Muskoka possesses many grand openings for bee-keeping, and we look forward to the time when our Muskoka friends will have tens of thousands of acres of that rocky land, which cannot be cultivated, seeded with Viper's bugloss, bokhara clover, the Chapman honey plant, and many others that would well repay them sowing the plant until it once became established. The unlimited opportunities for securing a continuous flow of honey by seeding those burnt districts would enable the bee-keeper to reap a rich harvest. We thank you very much for the report, as we are exceedingly anxious to hear of the success of our Muskoka friends. Their kindness and hospitality is not equalled in older settled places, and they well deserve all the prosperity that nature can bestow upon them.

### REPORT OF A BEE-KEEPER OF 30 YEARS STANDING.

F. L. MOORE.—My bees have been in winter quarters two months to-day, Dec. 31st. On examination I find them very quiet and very few dead. Thermometer registered  $46^{\circ}$ . Air inside seemed fine and dry. During that period the thermometer outside of house has registered at one time  $18^{\circ}$  below zero. Variation inside  $4^{\circ}$ .

About thirty years ago I started in life for myself and when I left the parental roof a kind father said: "Son I will give you a swarm of bees." I did not show signs of contempt for the present, but down in my heart I would have been thankful if he had not made me the offer for I disliked the bees so much that I would not fetch the swarm to my newly made home. About two years after, father, in the month of March, brought me two swarms and said: "Here is the colony I gave you with part of its increase, I kept the other part for my trouble." I was then forced to accept them. I took care of them as best I knew how until they increased to seven colonies in three years then I lost them all. After I had lost them I saw there was pleasure and profit in the bees and I began to have a better liking for them, and my love continued to increase until I went and purchased a colony for \$4.00. Took care of them a little better than the others until they increased to nine colonies and then lost them all again. By this time I had become more acquainted with the bees and believed if they could be successfully wintered and cared for there was both pleasure and profit in the bees as my loss was all in the wintering. How to arrive at that point I did not know as I had no access to apian literature of any kind.