

they came to naught. We believe that friend Clarke, of Guelph, has some of the plants growing at his place, and we shall have to depend on him for a report as to their adaptability to Canadian soil.

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BEE NOTES DURING THE HONEY FLOW.

SIR,—As I am frequently asked by those commencing bee-keeping, how I do, under various circumstances, while managing my bees, I have come to the conclusion, as well as I can, to describe a few operations just as they took place.

Commencing, then, with the 1st of June, at which time my bees were not in what I considered a strong condition, but rather what might be called fair. On the other hand the season was early; and I began to fear that the honey would come and go before my bees were sufficiently numerous to gather it. I therefore studied and schemed how I best could keep them together, having learned from experience that it is the populous colonies that pay. I had evidence of the importance of this while the soft elms were in bloom this spring. I weighed four colonies about eleven o'clock; three of them were among my best, one was only middling. They were again weighed at night; the three good colonies had increased in weight $3\frac{1}{2}$, 4 and $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., while the weaker one only increased $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pound. Now there was nothing like this difference as regards number of bees. It is therefore evident that there is great gain by having a large number together in one hive; and although that very desirable condition cannot be obtained as we would like, still we can work in that direction.

I should have said that out of 82 colonies, which wintered in the cellar, under a temperature of from 45° to 50° , six were silent when put out about the middle of April, and a number more were weak. Why was this?

The winter before over 50 colonies came out in splendid condition from the same cellar, the average temperature being a little lower, the winter being colder. I account for the difference from the fact that last year my colonies were very strong in bees at the close of the honey season, about the last week in July. The queens stopped laying almost immediately. The consequence was the bees were old, and died in the cellar in larger numbers than usual. If I am right in this, the remedy would be to feed a little every day for about two weeks immediately after the flow ceases.

I wish the reader also to understand that when I state my methods of manipulation and opinions

on bee-keeping, I do not say they are better than those of other men. I know from experience that it is very confusing to the beginner, when he tries to learn from reading, to find that hardly any two writers will agree on any single feature. In fact, bee-keeping cannot be learned by reading, however useful it may be; practice must go with it.

One question that is sometimes asked is, "Can more honey be obtained by allowing them to swarm, or by keeping them together?" If the bees are strong and the honey late, better results may be obtained from dividing or allowing them to swarm, but if the bees are weak, and the honey early, it is better to keep them together. Desiring honey rather than increase, my efforts, as before stated, were directed to prevent division. As soon as I saw the bees becoming numerous, and building new comb between the frames, I placed a super on top to give room. In this super I placed empty combs or full sheets of foundation, and generally selected the whitest comb with the whitest honey from the brood-chamber, and placed it in the centre of the super. Strong, dark honey should never be placed where, in extracting, it would become mixed with honey intended for market. If it be necessary to use such a comb to entice the bees to the super, it should be put back after it has answered its purpose. If work in extracting supers or section boxes can be commenced before swarming is thought of by the bees, they will very likely not swarm through the season. But some will swarm apparently without reason, and other means must be used to prevent increase. I practise largely and succeed satisfactorily by lifting the hive that has swarmed, turning the entrance to one side, placing a new hive on the stand. I should mention that my queens are clipped, and when she comes out she is caught in a wire cage; this cage is then placed at the entrance of the new hive. As soon as the swarm begins to return she is liberated and allowed to run in with the returning bees. This is all done with very little trouble, and free from the risk of swarms absconding. In the evening the old hive is turned and set close to the swarm with the entrances as close as possible. If increase is wanted, five or six days after, this old hive should be lifted to a new stand; all its flying bees will enter the hive containing the swarm, and it is from this that honey may be expected. The old hive will not likely swarm again, the number of bees being thus too much reduced. But if increase is not wanted, as it was in my case, I used this old colony, by first brushing the bees from its combs in front of the swarm that came from it, and took off all queen cells