



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

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EDITORIAL.

If we could have plenty of bright sunshine and warm weather now, bees would progress much more rapidly. Fruit bloom is just coming in, in many localities in Ontario. As soon as it is over, bees that have not plenty of stores and to spare should be fed liberally till the white clover or some other bloom furnishes them a continuous yield. Getting a little fruit bloom honey starts them to breed very rapidly, if the weather is at all favorable, then a cessation of the flow after that is over seems to discourage them, and it takes some time for them to regain their former exertions. In some localities there is plenty of ground maple, sheep burr and other plants that bloom between clover and fruit bloom. In such localities feeding will not be necessary, but it is always better to have five pounds too much than an ounce too little in the hives. It is bad economy to see how little bees can do with. We have known beekeepers to open their hives, find a few cells of honey scattered here and there in the combs, sealed or unsealed as the case may be, and say,

"these are all right, I see honey there," and pass on to the next hive. It will take from ten to fifteen pounds of honey to carry strong colonies over from fruit bloom to clover bloom and bees carry on brooding largely in proportion to the amount of stores in their hives. Take a strong colony with say five pounds of honey scattered through their combs, and another of equal strength with fifteen or twenty lbs., both to have young virgin queens. At the end of three weeks there would be more than double the progress made in the well supplied colony than there would be than in the one scarce of food. If it ever pays to turn honey or sugar syrup into young bees, it surely doubtly repays to do it just before the honey season. It would be better economy to feed honey or sugar syrup at a cost of 15c. per pound just before the honey harvest than it would after the honey harvest was over, to feed them at a cost of 3c. per pound.

Reports from many localities say that bees have wintered splendidly. Some of our best bee-keepers have had slight losses, but from what we can learn where bees were properly wintered with plenty of stores they have come out in fine condition. In other localities we hear of very severe losses. Reports indicate the loss among beginners or inexperienced bee-keepers has been about one-third. As further reports come in we will be better able to judge.