

hives. We have never known martins in this country to destroy bees or queens although they may have done so; but the year we were raising queens in Cyprus there were large flocks of birds similar to our martins, except in their more brilliant plumage, which would soar about our yard, catching sometimes two-thirds of the queens that came out. We think we have lost as many as 80 and 40 queens in one day by them, and we were forced at last to shoot them. Perhaps Mr. Benton can tell us something more about these birds and others that prey on the bees in Palestine and Syria as his experience will interest many.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### BEE-KEEPERS ATTENTION.

FROM the *British Bee Journal* I learn that the British Bee-Keeper's Association has a membership of about 10,000. The membership fee is 5s., over \$1. Now, here is a lesson for us, and we must admit we are behind in this matter. Britain, 10,000; Ontario, how many? Would we be willing to admit that we are less enthusiastic, that we fail to see that "in unity there is strength," that we are behind the times? I think not. There is no doubt that now with our annual grant and other privileges we have, the membership will increase. But with all our privileges the success and utility of the association will depend, not solely upon our financial standing, although it is of value, but much more upon its membership and the way every bee-keeper will make an effort to make the meetings and everything connected with the work of the association of practical value. Let those of us who are already members make an effort to interest others in the association. We should be able to have two or three thousand members, and how much good might an association of that number of active members, willing to promote the interests of their calling unitedly and personally, do. Bee-keepers, study this matter. An outlay of one dollar may directly, or indirectly at least, yield a return of many fold. You get a dollar paper, the *Rural Canadian*, to start on. Many hands make light work.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

Brantford, Ont.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### WINTERING BEES.

HAVING been engaged in apiculture for the last four years, it occurred to me that in writing a brief article on the above subject it might be of practical value to some engaged in our interesting and pleasant pursuit, in the early part of the fall before the bees begin to cluster for winter (of course always knowing their condition previous to this as to the strength

of colonies and stores). In preparing the hive itself, I put from three to four inches of basswood shavings from the section planer. As I am engaged in the supply business, I always have plenty of them, and they are a good absorbent of moisture, and in the morning of the day that I put them in the cellar, I raise the hive an inch from the bottom board, which I have found from practical experience to be of great value in keeping all moisture from the hives, and giving them at the same time plenty of fresh air, which are two very essential factors in successful wintering, while the cellar is supplied with two ventilating tubes, one leading from about thirty feet from the cellar underground, and the other passing up through two stories into a chimney above from about one foot from the cellar floor which is covered with sawdust which prevents any jar or noise when it is necessary to look at them during confinement, and in placing them on their summer stands again in the spring (which I do as soon as there is any pollen for them to gather), I place them in a row about four or five inches apart on the south side of the house, and pack them in hay between, and at the back, of the hives, during the spring, so as to prevent any inconvenience to the bees after having been taken from the warm cellar on account of the cold nights of spring, and thereby overcoming one of the great causes of spring dwindling to which the bees are so apt if not kept sufficiently warm during the changeable and trying time of early spring. By the above method I have successfully wintered, as the winters of 1884-5 will long be remembered by bee-keepers on account of the great losses everywhere I am happy to say that I did not lose any. At some future time I will write again as to my success this winter, and would say in conclusion that although Mr. Heddon may be right as to the pollen theory, but I do not think it would do for our latitude, as the bees would be only beginning to breed when the honey season commences, as we have it from very good authority from the pen of Prof. A. J. Cook, that pollen is necessary for the brood and the bees themselves when the breeding season begins, which is long before we can ever begin to think of taking them from their winter quarters.

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FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### BEES IN JAMAICA.

BEE-KEEPING in Jamaica is carried on in a very primitive fashion. Wax is more sought after than honey, and large quantities of it are shipped to England. Numbers of bees are kept by the black people. I