

to cap the honey over in the top storey I take the racks out and put in another set which I contrive to have on hand. This keeps your colony strong, and when there is honey they can send out a good army to fetch it in. I don't say, however, that this is an infallible remedy to stop all colonies from swarming. I have had some bees that would swarm out after taking all brood from them and giving them nothing but empty combs and combs partly filled with honey.

R. T. WOOD.

Thistle town, Ont, Jan. 4, 1888.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

### Buckwheat for Winter Stores.

I CAN agree with nearly all Mr. McEvoy says in regard to poor honey on page 815. He is a bee-keeper of much experience and evidently, in the main, on the right track. Mr. M. is an older bee-keeper than myself and may be right in the two points in which I must disagree with him. It is principally by comparing results that we arrive at the truth and I give you my experience along this line. Mr. M. says: "Where the color and body are the flavor will be there also." I aim to have all my honey ripened in the hives, but on placing several hundred pounds in a storing can a considerable quantity of thin honey will be found on the top. Last summer, during linden bloom, I dipped off enough (that was nearly as thin as water) to fill a 60 lb. tin, which was placed in a very warm place where it soon became quite equal in body and color to that in the bottom of the storing can—equal in appearance but not by any means in flavor. This would seem to indicate that the color and body may be present and the best flavor absent. Mr. M. thinks that buckwheat honey is unfit for winter stores. In my locality there is frequently sown 40 acres of buckwheat within two miles of our town. Sometimes, though not often, we get a lot of it which we try to get "stowed away" in the brood-chamber as fast as they can bring it in: I have even fed up colonies almost entirely on buckwheat and other fall honey and wintered them successfully on summer stands in single-walled hives with no protection but a sawdust cushion on top storey and the shady side of a board fence behind them. Was that not a pretty severe test? Well, it was cruel and I will never—well, hold on, "hardly ever," for I am wintering one colony out-doors in a thin Heddon hive. It came through in grand condition, under nearly the same conditions last winter and I want to see whether they will "hold the fort" this winter. There is room under the cushion for almost the whole colony to cluster in a bunch over the tops of the brood frames, and I expect they will winter all right. I don't think I shall ever try it again. Single-

walled hives should always be "packed" or placed in cellar.

J. F. DUNN.

Ridgeway, Welland Co., Ont.

### Letter of Thanks from Mr. Cowan.

FRIEND Jones & Co.—I yesterday received the following from Mr. Thos. W. Cowan. Please insert it in the C.B.J.

8 Avenue de la Gare, Lausanne, Switz.  
Dec. 17, 1887.

DEAR SIR,—I see by the *American Bee Journal* that your Association has elected me an honorary member, therefore I should be glad if you as president would convey from me the message that "I am extremely obliged for the honor conferred upon me by the North American Bee-keepers' Association in electing me, by a unanimous vote, an honorary member of the society. I shall henceforth as a member take even a more lively interest in the welfare and progress of the society than formerly, and more particularly as I have become personally acquainted with some of its leading members." I read with much interest the proceedings at your convention and regretted not being able to be present.

Yours truly,

THOS. W. COWAN.

I am sure we all feel that in honoring Mr. Cowan by electing him as an honorary member of our society, we honored ourselves, and were glad of so good an opportunity to show him, in a measure, the high esteem in which he is held by the bee-keepers of America, and we should have been glad to have had him with us at the Chicago convention, so that we could have had the opportunity in a more demonstrative way, to have shown him what a cordial greeting we could have given him.

It would have been a rare treat to have had him, in his pleasant and inimitable way, tell us of the wonderful things his powerful microscope would have shown us.

The brief but enjoyable visit I had with him is set down as one of the bright spots in my life; and the very fine photograph of himself that was enclosed in his letter will be a constant reminder of the visit to our land of one of England's best and noblest men.

A. B. MASON.

P. S. As the *CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL* and the *American Bee Journal* are the only weekly bee journals published I send the above to them only. Will the other bee journals and papers in America please copy.

A. B. M.