

when speaking of a cluster of bees in winter, (in which there is no brood) there would have been no discussion.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON,

Flint, Mich. Jan. 13, 1890.

For the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

What is an Average Crop Anyway?

SIR: In a letter signed H. W. Scott, Williamstown, Vt., on page 1002 C. B. J., I find the following: Mr. R. McKnight referring to the average crop of honey says, "what an average crop is I have yet to learn." He says, "now in my opinion it is quite easy for one to find the average of any crop," etc. Certainly it is as far as one's individual product is concerned. But if Mr. Scott will carefully read the context he will learn that it was not my own crop that I had reference to, but the average yield of the country, and I repeat what amount per colony is considered an average yield "I have yet to learn." I have been accustomed to read in the bee-papers year after year, and each year for some seasons past that the crop is below the average. Will Mr. Scott enlighten us by letting us know what is considered an average crop the country over and when we have had such.

R. MCKNIGHT.

Owen Sound, Jan. 13, 1890.

For the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

The Garden of Canada.

THE NORTH WEST THE PLACE FOR THE BEE-KEEPER.

I FEEL satisfied with my trial trip of the C. B. J. so far. I think that I have derived benefit to more than cover all the expense of the paper and feel confident that anyone can, if not prejudiced and thinks there is nothing more to learn in the bee business, which is a great mistake. I find, by careful study, very many pointers that are applicable to this part of the world, a part yet very little known and developed, often termed in the east, the north pole of Canada. I boast of being a resident of this north pole for ten years and have yet to find any part of Canada from Toronto west and north, that will compare favorably with this, as to climate and resources.

I was one of the first to import the honey bee, feeling assured the country was well adapted for bee culture and I have not been disappointed. 2,200 miles is quite a distance to have bees shipped with 200 miles by wagon to make a start. But under these difficulties success has crowned the effort and proves conclusively that our north west is well adapted to all lines of

agriculture that the far famed east is noted for. I find not the least difficulty in keeping the right temperature in cellar with twenty colonies, and the cellar new and large enough to contain 200 colonies, without sub-earth ventilation or such precautions as are taken by many. A dry cellar is all that is required and upward ventilation that can be controlled.

If many of the articles that are written on cellar wintering were divested of some of the invisible clothing with which they are surrounded, very many of the terrors of cellar wintering would vanish as soon as elbow grease and common sense were applied to the work. The bees were inspected in the cellar on the 5th inst and nothing but perfect quiescence among the 20 stocks, 17 stocks are in the double-walled hives and 3 stocks are in the S. W. L. hives. These hives are covered with jute sacking and seamless sacks outside, and the bees in these are just as quiet as in the D. W. hives. I had one colony that gave 80 lbs. of comb honey the last season and was divided once. With no rain and snow for fourteen months and the earth parched by drouth so that in very many places there were no crops, I think this most conclusive proof of my statements that this is the "garden of Canada."

J. KNOWLES.

Edmonton, Alberta, Dec. '89.

We are glad to hear from the pioneer bee-keeper of Alberta, and with such a good report of the honey producing and wintering resources of the great North West. 80 lbs comb honey is a wonderful yield for such a dry season and if this can be taken as a basis, the results of good management and a proper state of weather would be something unheard of. One advantage you possess over us who are situated here in the east is the excellent market you always have for all the honey you can produce and at prices away in advance of those ruling in Ontario. The very dry atmosphere which you enjoy, will make the matter of wintering an easy one. We should like to know what the average yield per colony from your whole apiary is and what the pasturage from which gathered. We follow your communication with a letter from an old Perth bee-keeper now in the north west, who says the question of wintering is not worth discussing as a difficult one but that the flora of his section precludes the possibility of making