

had the like of it before. Since I have kept bees I never lost half that many all together. I had only one few swarm. I am wintering 50 this winter, they are doing well thus far. I got 40 pounds of surplus honey and fed 700 pounds of sugar. How is that for luck. But I gave it with good will, thank fortune sugar is cheap. and I don't expect to see such a poor season again for some time. I winter on summer stands with outside winter cases and chaff packing. I am in a good locality for honey, when there is any flow. There is lots of alsike clover raised here, and there is some basswood near me, enough to keep them busy when in bloom. I could keep over 100 colonies if I could care for them, but I am a farmer and cannot give all my time to the bees, and 50 or 60 well cared for is better than 100 neglected; bees must have care to make it pay, if they are not cared for at the proper time the loss will be great, and no profit to their keeper. I am well pleased with the Canadian Bee Journal. It is full of useful knowledge to the bee-keeper, and no bee-keeper can afford to do without it, if he wishes to succeed in business.

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Wintering Bees in California.

Nearly every bee journal in the East is burdened these times with articles and symposiums upon wintering. The California Beekeeper, so happily free from those troubles, thinks it his duty to skip all such writing, and at the same time express himself strongly against having such articles in his paper. The subject, however, is of vital interest to the Eastern beekeepers, and is likely to be the burden of many discussions in the future.

It is a pleasure to learn that this important feature in Eastern beekeeping is making progress toward success, and it is hoped that when a few now winter with but little loss in a cold climate, all may learn to do so in the near future.

It was my lot to pass through many wintering experiences in Eastern N.Y., and the skeletons of many blasted hopes lay strewn around the old homestead. I have lost as high as 75 per cent. of my colonies, while the remaining 25 per cent. were weak and required much nursing to get them into the working order.

When I left the East I had an idea that I had solved the wintering problem, not from theory alone but from a practical demonstration for three winters.

I practiced cellar wintering, but not successfully, until I adopted a sealed cover and

a large air space below the cluster. I used the Haddon hive; usually in two sections. The same plan would work with the ordinary L. hive, or any hive with like capacity. The air space was made by using a 2½-inch rim under the brood frames. The temperature of the cellar was held at about 45°, and there was no cold draught of air allowed to strike the covers and cause condensation of moisture in the hive. The bees could be seen at any time clustered in a ball below the frames, and always in that semi-dormant and healthful condition that a beekeeper loves to witness. But my interesting wintering studies were brought to an end by a sudden resolve to migrate to a more genial climate, and the summer of 1891 found me looking into the honey interests of California, and here I certainly found freedom from those Eastern wintering troubles.

Where the temperature seldom gets below the freezing point, the wintering of bees should have no terrors. Still in the balmy climate of California, strange as it may seem, we have a considerable loss of bees in the winter, and to the methods of management we can attribute all of the loss.

Some of our beekeepers are careful to fulfill all of the requirements necessary for the highest success. Some partly fulfill them and some think there are no requirements to fulfill.

The careful beekeeper seldom extracts honey from the brood-chamber, and toward the close of the season he is careful to leave some honey in the super after each extracting. Our seasons usually closes here in July, but sometimes the yield holds out a month or more later. Be that as it may, the careful beekeeper is never caught with an apiary that needs feeding.

The careful beekeeper also has an eye to his queens, and supercedes the old at superannuated stock, and starts into the winter with young and vigorous ones.

The seasons are so long here that the queen is putting forth her best endeavors for several months, and though I have not seen the matter demonstrated by facts of experiments, I am sure that the queen's usefulness is impaired earlier than in the east; and while a queen may do good service there for three years, it is not advisable to use a queen here past the second year.

In nearly all of the apiaries here, the extracting supers, be they one or more, are usually left on the hives all winter. A few very careful beekeepers have a storehouse for the supers and combs, and confine the bees to the one storey or brood