

that before releasing the queen all queen cells are to be destroyed, and for colonies below average strength I like the plan either at home or abroad, if you wish to replace the queen it is a very good time to do it. The colony should be examined a few days after to make sure that they have accepted the queen as they will not always do so. In going through the apiary instead of examining carefully to find out all that had queens, I simply place a caged queen in as many hives as I had queens with me. I then returned to the first one and if the bees were not concerned about her I judged they had one of their own. If, however, they were buzzing and excited it was an indication that they were queenless in which case I would give them one forthwith. I purpose adopting a different plan this season from either I have described and I think it will be better. I would say that the manager of my Owen Sound apiary, who also had charge of this out apiary, says that he is "done with caging queens."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

### A SPRING REPORT.

A. Boomer.

At this season of the year readers of Bee Journals (who I presume are mostly Bee-Keepers) are anxious to know how the bees have come out in different sections of the country. This wintering problem with most of us who are engaged in this industry is always a serious one and the results in the spring are often, too often, very disappointing. Last season was a very poor one in this northern section of Ontario, no bass-wood bloom and weather too dry, and where bees were left to take care of themselves, brooding stopped too early, with the result that if there were stores enough in the hive there

were too many old bees to stand our long winters. We therefore anticipated losses and weak colonies in the spring. My loss, however, has not been nearly so bad as I anticipated. Out of 116 colonies placed in the cellar about the 1st of Nov. there were only three dead, two others left the hives soon after being put in, and went into others leaving all their stores intact. On looking them over on April 13th, after being set out, a few were found queenless; these were at once given to other weak colonies, which reduced my number to about 105. A good many of these will need close attention to bring them through the spring.

My winter repository being some ten rods from my yard, I could not very well set them out in the day time, so I studied the probabilities for next day and set them out in the evening, without regard to where they were placed last year, and the day being moderately calm they kept to their places very well.

In looking them over in the afternoon I found one queen balled on top of the frames. I liberated her and left her to take her chances. I presume some other bees from other hives had got in, but in this I may be mistaken. Some more practical bee-keeper may be able to give some other more intelligible reason.

Outdoor wintering in this section proved very disastrous this winter, fully more than half went under, and with some others cellar wintering resulted very little better so that the stock of bees in the country is very much reduced.

I wanted to say something about the style of hive I use and spring management, but I think my article being already very lengthy I will reserve these for another issue of your paper.

Perth Co.

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