

For the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

**Don't Fence Your Apiary.**

I won't pay to keep a high fence around an apiary. Sixteen years ago I put a high tight-board fence at the north side of my apiary to make my bee yard warmer and protect the bees from raw cold winds. But I learned from experience in life's hard school that the time and lumber which I put on that fence was worse than wasted because, instead of it being a benefit, it proved to be an injury to the bees. In bright sunny days in winter, when the air was rather cold, the bees in the colonies close to the fence would come out and fly over the fence on the north side and die on the snow in the cold shade where there was no sun shining but very often a cool north breeze blowing. The great loss of bees on the snow showed plain enough that "over the fence was out." In spring the bees were often deceived by the fence as it caused many of them to fly about and get wasted on raw chilly days when they should have been in their hives. Some days in the honey season when the temperature in other places would be in the nineties, then the heat close to that fence would be something terrible on both myself and the bees. The combs in some of the colonies melted down and in others the bees would come out and hang in large patches on the sides of the hives. I then took the fence all away and have not had any fence near the bees in twelve years. My bee yard is in the center of Woodburn village. The village is in a hollow and is protected all around by large orchards and woods. It is one of the best sheltered places from winds or storms of any village I know of. Will the bee-keeper that sent query 226 to the C. B. J. tell us through the C. B. J. what he wanted to protect his bees from, where his apiary is or will be, and the kind of place and its surroundings?

WM. McEVoy.

Woodburn, April 10th, 1889.

In your location a fence seems hardly to have been needed. But had you been in an unsheltered spot, with the bleak winds throwing the loaded bees to the ground, your opinion of a fence would be different.

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**LOSSES THROUGH DAMPNESS.**

MY bees are all out. Some have life and some have none. When the winter set in most of them were fifteen miles away and nearly all the combs were filled with honey. I hesitated to move them

here thinking that the combs would break down and so I placed them in a root house near by and I saw or heard nothing of them till the 8th of April when I entered the store room and brought them into the light of day. On examination I found just fifty per cent had perished. Of the dead stocks two or three had starved, five or six had gone by diarrhoea, and two by the ravages of mice. The place was too damp, hence the disease. Moving bees has therefore in my experience a bad as well as a good side. The bad side has been manifest in the loss this spring, as those which I wintered in my home repository came through in good condition.

Yet it is remarkable that two stocks of bees of the same age, with stores equal in amount and condition, in a winter repository similar in every way will be so different in six months that one will be dead and the other as full of life as when it entered.

The weather here during the past ten days has been mainly favorable for bees, as they have been able to fly with the exception of two or three days and for the past week have been bringing in pollen.

I was interested in reading your defence of the alleged defects of the Combination hive, but I still believe that it would be greatly improved by the addition of the ninth frame. There are six weeks—from first of May till fifteenth of June—when eight frames are too few for the breeding capacities of a strong stock with a fairly prolific queen. Then again taken when stores are being put in for winter and bees raised which are to go through the long, cold months the space for brood and food will be found too contracted to secure the best results.

But if the bee-keepers of Canada could even agree on the size of a frame and use it exclusively it would be a great convenience, especially now when Canadian bee producers are fully able to supply the home demand for bees.

I hope that should the writer who allowed himself to be so far removed from the spirit of the injunction "to think no evil," as to imply that my account of the honey harvest in your journal last autumn was not true, read this he may allow it to pass without even suggesting to his nearest neighbor that it is a fish story."

J. R. BLACK,

Barrie, April 16.

Why didn't you bring them back on the cessation of the fall yield?

No doubt what you say about the damp repository had something to do with your losses, the damper the room the higher should be the temperature. If you could have maintained the heat at a point to disperse the moisture all would have been well no doubt.