

condition for the harvest when it opened ; and when there was no yield from spring flowers and fruit bloom, fifty pounds of this was at the expense of their owner. When I say it was at his expense I mean that he would have saved it had he destroyed his bees in the fall.

You say you scarcely think I intended to say "carrying out of the cellar two or three times during the winter" (your comments, page 247). But I did intend it ; though I must freely admit that with a proper bee-house or cellar it would not be necessary. But every bee-man has not such a repository ; and while you and some others are often spared the labor of "carrying out," there are many bee-men who must perform it, and it is to them my remarks applied. You must surely know as well as I do myself that this "carrying out" is practised all over the country two winters out of three by three-quarters of our bee-men who winter inside, and one in five by the others ; with, possibly, two or three exceptions.

You say "we all know now that when bees are wintering well they should be left alone until it is time to set them out in the spring." Why, of course, we all know it (now, as you say, if we didn't always know it) ; but it is "when bees are wintering well" that they should be left alone ; and here is just the point—when they are wintering well. They are not wintering well when they are restless, when they are spotting their hives, when they are consuming too much stores, and when they are doing anything else that in our opinion they should not do. In other words they are wintering well only when they require absolutely no attention : and how often this is, taking the last five years for the average, I have already hinted. How often, Mr. Editor, do bees winter well in Canada ? That is, to the entire satisfaction to Canadian bee-keepers as a unit, or even to the entire satisfaction of any individual owner when he charges up labor, cost and loss.

You make my item of insurance at fifty cents appear as though it referred to fire insurance only, whereas the fire part of it was of very secondary consideration. Either you did not carefully read my letter before commenting or else I failed to make my meaning plain. Perhaps I should have used the word "risk" instead of "insurance." Please read that paragraph on insurance again and you will see that I put fire as only one of the lesser items which combine to make up the accident part of what I call the "risk of accident and disease. You speak of what it costs to insure your bee-house ; but your bee-house is not your bees. Possibly you

are not aware that in any case bees do not form a legitimate risk for fire insurance companies. I do not say that no company will insure bees, but perhaps some may ; but each of the three leading companies which refused me told me that the fire insurance of bees is not legitimate. But leave out the fire entirely and I am sure 50c. is not too high to cover the following risks : death, queenlessness, shortage of spring stores, dwindling, necessity for stimulative feeding, dysentary, foul brood, and any condition inferior to full strength on ten combs, eight of these full of brood by May 15th. I am sure you would not take this risk for me at 50c. per colony ; and if you would not do it for me, it is worth more to myself. Worth more to myself for the same reason that you insure against fire with some other company because you cannot afford to carry the risk yourself : it is worth more to you to carry your own risk than others will do it for, and so you prefer to pay them. So in this case.

I quite agree with you that we ought to be very careful from whom, in the States or Canada either, we buy bees ; but because there is foul brood on this continent is no reason that we should purchase it. I don't think the risk of buying diseased colonies, if bees are bought as I would buy them, is any greater than contagion from our neighbors' apiaries at home. It will pay the purchaser of one hundred colonies to select them for himself ; and unless he is competent to pick out healthy colonies he had better not buy at all. You purchased sixty colonies and found them diseased ; I purchased eighty-five one time and forty another and found them better than represented, and I am not afraid to buy again even without first seeing my purchase.

In conclusion of this somewhat, though necessarily lengthy reply, let me say that I have endeavored to base my deductions upon circumstances as they are. Arguments based upon circumstances as we wish them to be would lead me in quite another direction. Each of us has his ideal wintering, but who has attained it ? We expend a large amount of stores and labor one winter and we think we see how we can do better next time ; in fact we are so sure we can that we persuade ourselves that we will ; and we tell others that we can. Such is human nature. But how do we succeed ? Do we ever realize our anticipations ? As a rule no, and yet we hope on, and still expect better results from a newer and prospectively better method ; and so winter after winter passes by and still we hope, believe, promise and assert ; but the facts remain the same.