

**BEES WINTERED WELL ON FOUR TO SIX COMBS.**

**CALVIN BOYD.**—I went into winter quarters with nineteen colonies, fifteen of which were in double-walled sawdust hives on their summer stands, with six inches of loose, dried, pine sawdust thrown in on top of the cotton quilt, first placing sticks under the quilt for winter passage over the combs. Six out of the fifteen thus treated came out strong, two dwindled to mere nuclei but will recover, the balance are medium to good. Four colonies in Jones' hives were packed in clamps with ten inches of sawdust on the sides and fourteen inches on top. All of these came out in good condition, and I have to-day seventeen good colonies and two weak ones. All of them were wintered on fall honey gathered chiefly from golden rod, and after September 1st. The entrances on all the hives were left wide open  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Four to six combs were the average number on which the bees were wintered, and the consumption for each averaged fifteen pounds of honey. Wishing the **CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL**, in its third volume the success it so richly deserves.

Petrolea, May 18th, 1887.

#### A CASE OF TRANSFERRING IN WINTER.

**GEORGE COOK.**—I put away eight colonies in the fall of 1886, packed in chaff. I find that two of them died with plenty of honey in their hives, having consumed less than a pound. One box hive, which I had purchased, did not have sufficient stores and they appeared to have "passed away." On a warm day I took the honey board off and let the sun shine in on them, when to my surprise they began to flutter and show signs of life. I brushed them into a moveable frame hive, covered them up warmly, placed them behind the stove and in about an hour they came to. I now have a good colony, perhaps as good as any of the eight. From what I can learn, there are a good many dead bees in the vicinity, a great many having lost all they had.

Collingwood, May, 1887.

It is more than probable that you removed the colony just in time to save it. Had you let the matter stand a little longer it is likely that they would have starved, so that perhaps the hybernation theory of brother Clarke is not very much strengthened after all.

#### BEES IN MUSKOKA.

**R. H. SMITH.**—My report of wintering is rather late, but I have purposely delayed it to see how my bees would come out by June 1st, as I consider spring is as trying a time for bees as winter. I put away forty-seven colonies in the cellar and packed six outside in chaff; the cellar was rather cold, seldom above  $42^{\circ}$ . I neglected to set the mouse trap, the consequence was, mice destroyed four colonies, and worried four others so that they were almost depopulated. One energetic colony overpowered their mouse, stung it to death and glued it to the bottom of the hive, and have now fully recovered. Pollen was very late in appearing this year; the first came in on April 29th. On May 2nd we set bees out of the cellar. Those that the mice had not disturbed

were in fine condition, one was queenless, two showed a little dysentery, the rest were very clean and strong, some unusually so. On examining them I found very little brood, much less than at the same time other seasons. The six packed outside wintered well and had large patches of brood. This has been a very favorable spring for bees, the continued warm weather has helped them along very fast. Honey has been coming in nearly every day since they were set out, so much in fact that the queens in some instances have been crowded with twelve frames in the hive. I was almost tempted to extract some, but the change has come. Last week we had heavy rains, followed by cooler weather, when little honey was to be got. On looking them over I find they have used considerable of their stores, and with the large quantity of brood to feed, will not have too much to keep them going till clover blooms. This is now the 30th of May and the bees are as strong as we have ever had them at this time, most of the hives have from ten to twelve frames solid with brood and honey with the queens laying at a great rate. Two would have swarmed by the 20th but were prevented, but we expect swarms every day now that several have queen cells sealed.

Bracebridge, May 30th, 1887.

#### BEES TOO DEAR BY THE POUND.

**ROBERT KENNEDY.**—Will you kindly inform the readers of the **CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL** how the bees which you wrote about last fall as coming into your hands late with little or no stores, and that you proposed feeding them sugar candy, wintered? Did they come out strong this spring? You said at the time that it would be a good chance to test this kind of winter feed. My bees were fed on candy in your winter feeder, but before I got the feeder I had been feeding syrup, in which I put acid as recommended by Mr. Heddon, and although my cellar was damp and rather cold (never going above  $40^{\circ}$ , unless when I lit up my coal-oil heater, and sometimes down to  $32^{\circ}$ ) I did not see the least sign of dysentery. The Heddon hive I moved on its stand right on the floor, and they were the strongest in the spring, and did not consume as much food. One of my colonies gave up after being set out for a week; robbers finished them. I have another on which they are operating, and on opening the hive I found that the queen and a few bees had as much brood as would cover a circle two inches in diameter. I closed up the entrance to one bee-space and put on the wire gauze over the balance of the entrance, leaving three combs in the hive closed up with the division board, and I put some food over the combs, but the robbers are still around. What should I do, or did I do right as one who is a novice? If I had a pound of bees; but your figures per pound say stop. Buy a colony, or take away the combs and let the weaker colony go? Which do you think will be best for me to do?

Bethany, Ont.

The colonies which we wrote about as belonging to an estate, page 685, C.B.J., Volume II, were given sufficient stores to carry them only two or three weeks ahead at the time, but we could not con-