

plainer. I lost my bees once by following a plan that was badly described.

As to paper being spread on bottom-boards in cellar, to take out to clean hives, I'd like to see you do it with mine, when bees are clustered clear to bottom boards. Maybe you'd do it and maybe you wouldn't.

I may be wrong but it seems to me that only such things as most people don't know ought to be asked in the "query" department. I don't mean any harm. I only thought D. A. might settle some of the lightest ones by a verse or two. Stopping up a crack in a bee-gum for instance wouldn't take as much paper to stop it up as it took to write about it.

Water has stood in the cellar most all winter, but my bees are as bright and healthy as larks. Ovid, Erie Co. Pa.

#### EXTRACTING UNRIPE HONEY.

A SUBSCRIBER writes: "As long as 'total depravity' and 'original sin' hold on to their mortgage on men, that uncapped honey will (the bulk of it) go on the market in a crude state, and I guess that there is no way of regulating the matter. It is too much trouble to give it the heat and time required to ripen, and too handy to draw it off into the vessels for shipment and be done with it'.

It strikes us that our friend is not willing to allow that beekeepers can be educated up to bettering their condition the same as any other class of people. If this were the case there would be little use in publishing a journal to give expression to the experience and thoughts of intelligent and progressive apiarists. It is true that there will always be some who will not heed the teachings as laid down in the various publications, but there are others who are willing and ready to learn how to improve their position. And it will be so in this matter of selling honey before it is properly ripened, the same as in anything else. If the advantages of properly ripening the honey, and the increase in price which will in time accrue to the one who puts *ripe* honey, and ripe honey only, on the market, are set forth, there will be many who are ready and willing to follow out the instructions laid down. The ripening process is an exceedingly easy one, requiring but little time or trouble at the hands of the bee-keeper, and the satisfaction derived from a feeling that one is doing his best, should actuate many to do just what we wish. See a further reference to this subject on page 89, this issue.

#### REPORT FROM THE MOUNTAIN VIEW APIARY.

H. A. SCHULTZ.—My bees wintered splendidly; 80 colonies were put in the cellar last November, where the temperature ranged all winter from 40° to 60°. 76 colonies, in first class condition, are on their summer stands now; of the four lost, two died of starvation, but the other two had plenty of honey in their combs and were strong in numbers, but were all lying dead on the bottoms of their hives, three to four inches deep, and as far as they reached up among the frames the combs were very mouldy. All the other colonies, excepting three, were as dry and clean as in the summer time, but these three had the entrances and the front of their hives badly spotted through the winter, but are tip-top now. Most of my hives have loose bottom boards, but I left them under the hives for the winter as if they were nailed on. The entrances to the hives, being half an inch high by ten inches long, were left entirely open, no other ventilation being given. Each colony had a quilt made of two sheets of gray cotton, with two inches thick of nice soft wool between, over their frames. The weather so far has not been very favorable for bees this spring; dark or cloudy days with cold winds and hard freezing nights, and for a change little furies of snow this last two days, is the May-weather we are having this year.

Red clover and Alsike, as also much sweet clover, has all been winter-killed around here.

Clontarf, May 8, 1890.

You are having weather very much like we are getting a taste of here, as will be seen by reference to "Our Own Apiary."

JAS. ELLIOTT.—Bees all came through the winter extra well and are in prime condition. I am a little anxious about them on account of the backward weather, they have so much brood and so many bees and virtually nothing outside to work upon. They all had plenty of stores the last time I examined them, but they will very soon go through them.

Wilton Grove, Ont., May 8, 1890.

#### CONVENTIONS.

May 17 '90.—Haldimand County, at Cayuga, E. C. Campbell, Sec., Cayuga, Ont.

May 19, 1890.—Northern Illinois at Rockford, Ill., D. A. Fuller, Cherry Valley, Ill.

Jan'y 7-8, 1891.—Ontario Beekeepers Association, at St. Catharines; W. Couse, Sec., Streetsville, Ont.

July 17, '90.—Carolina, at Charlotte, N. C., N. P. Lyles, Sec., Derita, N. C.

Sept. 1, '90.—Lambton County, at Petrolia, J. R. Kitchen, Sec., Weidman, Ont.

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