

summer to allow the bees to build the comb past the frames. I have been following your directions of spreading the combs and they are built over and will have to shave them off this spring. The way I manage this job is to allow the frames to remain in the hive, smoke the bees down, then shave the piece off that is built past the frame with a sharp knife, being careful not to allow the knife to reach the brood, and I let the piece shaved off go down to the bottom of the hive. I shave them all down at the one time and shove the combs up, then in a day or two I lift the hive off from the bottom board and clean the pieces of comb off. Is this the proper way to do it?

A. BRIDGE.

We would prefer shaving off between two rows of combs, waiting a few days then shaving another row, and so continuing. If the weather is very warm it is better to do it in the evening, then all traces of the leaking honey will be cleared away before morning. We find it stimulates to break the caps or shave them off.

STATISTICS OF BEES IN QUEBEC.

GEO. H. JONES.—Please tell us where we can get reliable statistics of the bees of Quebec and also of the Dominion, and of their doings for the last ten years. If you can spare space please give them in the JOURNAL.

Bedford, Que., April 1, 1887.

We are not able at the present moment to furnish you with the information you require, but fancy it could be had by applying to Commissioner of Agriculture for your province, and such a report as he could give you, would, at its best, be but very unsatisfactory, as they have not, we imagine, given the matter much attention.

THE NEFF CLAMP.

J. NEFF, JR.—My bees are at present in fine condition and doing well. We have about sixty colonies now in winter quarters; fifty of these are packed in clamps, which I will endeavor to describe. The remaining ones were left outside for experimenting, the success and plans of which I will give later on when the warm weather of the coming spring shall give place for examination. As for my discussion on the point of clamp wintering it might be simply used for one wishing to construct a bee-house something on the order of a clamp for the reason that it is cheap, economising all the room possible, in all as sure and safe a method of wintering on

the absorbent plan. I will give a short description of the same, although there may be still room for improvement. One thing for a fact in regard to clamp wintering is, that in order to become successful, you must adopt one of the cheapest and safest methods with the least loss. By careful consideration you may accomplish more by saving than by labor alone. In the first place the dimensions are, length, twenty-one feet, width, four feet, height, eight feet to the roof, and holds fifty hives; the floor and walls must be tight enough to exclude mice or rats. The studs are placed two feet from each other in order to receive one tier of hives between each stud. Next a spout four inches high and sixteen inches deep is arranged to correspond with the entrances of each row of hives, each hive having its own separate entrance. There are five rows of hives, ten in each row, one above the other, facing the south, and a loose weather board for each row makes a convenient trap-door which may be opened or closed at will; it also answers a valuable purpose in the way of a dead air space, which not only gives place for the heaps of dead bees which otherwise would remain on the bottom board, and the odor arising from them is more or less injurious to the bees, but helps to keep the air in the hives at an even temperature. The hives in packing are placed opposite the spout and shoved up to prevent chaff from filling the entrance, with four inches of fine clover chaff on top. I always remove wax cloth and replace it with a new one. The roof is left off and the second hive placed on top, each hive is treated in the same way, beginning at one end and packing from the inside. When this is done and every colony packed warm and dry, there is little fear of mouldy combs or damp hives. When kept dry and the moisture allowed to escape, with free access to pure air, you may by all probability, and under most circumstances, winter successfully, or without more than two or three per cent loss, after the above plan.

Arkona, March 21st, 1887.

We think your plan of packing will be successful. Any system of clamp packing that gives sufficient air, retains the heat, and allows the moisture to escape, keeping the hive warm and dry, should be successful. We have tried a number of different styles of clamps and this year we have a number packed in what we term the Bray clamp or system. Let us hear from you in spring as to the result. We will also report.

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