

when you may have an extra colony or so that you may desire to have drones to mate with queens from other special colonies.

Remedying Dampness in Cellar.

Query 252.—Some of my hives in the cellar seems unusually damp, the water running out at the entrance or standing in the bottom. What had I better do to get rid of the dampness, or will it injure the bees?

A. B. MASON, AUBURNDALE, O.—A higher temperature in the cellar would probably remedy the trouble. Although it may not injure the bees it certainly will do them no good. A little ventilation at the top of the hive will help matters. Hives without bottom boards, suit me best in the cellar.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BOROHINO, N. Y.—Raise the hive up two inches all the way around at the bottom.

DR. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—I believe I should try to have some kind of fire in the cellar, although some claim the dampness does no great harm.

JAS. HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—Keep the temperature up to 50 or a little more.

J. ALPAUGH, ST. THOMAS.—You had better raise the temperature of your cellar as the dampness will injure the bees, the combs, the honey and also the pollen:

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—If the bees are quiet I think you need have no anxiety. If you wish you can raise the back of the hive so all will run out. I have never noticed any harm from such dampness.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—Is not your cellar too cold?

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—If the honey-boards are on, remove them and place on top cushions or cloths that will transmit the moisture. This is a common occurrence when a tight honey board is left on through the winter.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—Why don't you give the temperature of your cellar, then we could judge what the trouble was. If you have a damp cellar raise the temperature to 50° or 55° for a few days and note results.

J. E. POND, NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASS.—The dampness will not injure the bees so long as the water all runs out. Proper ventilation should keep you rid of dampness, but as you don't state the condition of your cellar except as to dampness I cannot prescribe a remedy with any certainty.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG.—If your hives have no ventilation at the top I would

try ventilating at the tops of the hives and, if this failed to dissipate the moisture I would put a stove in the cellar and dry the cellar out by heating it up, as often as it needs it. My plan of heating up the apartment in which bees are wintering for eight or ten hours once a week or once in ten days is a grand idea and will be appreciated some day.

J. K. DARLING, ALMONTE, ONT.—Give more bottom ventilation. Do not let the heat of the colony escape at the top of the hive. Keep your cellar well ventilated and do not let the temperature get below 45°. If it will run up to 48° or 50° for a day or two that will help but do not keep it there long as the bees will get uneasy. If the air in the cellar is too moist it could be made drier by placing some stone (un-slacked) lime in the cellar.

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS, ONT.—I do not see that you can well remedy this evil now with out injuring the bees in doing it, unless by doing what you can towards having your cellar dry. If your repository is not at fault, this condition, I should say, came from the hive or quality of the stores the bees have, so that you could not make any change now without doing more harm than good.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—The dampness will do but little harm if the other conditions are all right, especially the temperature, which ought, under such circumstances to be over 45° in the bottom of the repository. If you have the impervious, propolized, summer quilts on them, that is one cause of the water running out of the entrance. With porous quilts it would escape by evaporation at the top.

WM. McEVoy, WOODBURN, ONT.—If you can get a fine day take all such colonies out of the cellar and give them a fly. Then put the bees into dry hives, and with division boards crowd them well on a few combs. After the bees have settled for the day put them back in the cellar.

J. F. DUNN, RIDGEWAY, ONT.—I do not claim to be an authority on cellar wintering as I have wintered my bees almost entirely on summer stands and prefer double walled hives—that is, the lower story double, upper story single—but from two years experience with bees in cellar during the severe winters of 1887-8 my experience would lead me to believe your cellar is too cold. Try raising the temperature for a few days as high as the bees will stand without coming out of the hives and then keep the cellar at say 45° until spring. Don't set them out too early.

You had better remove the cloth and put a dry cushion on the top of the hive. Sometimes I have known bricks to be put in an oven and heated until they became very dry and placed on the top of the hive warm. A cheese cloth underneath them on top of the frames and an oil cloth over them will soon absorb the moisture and could be replaced by dry ones when they became damp.