

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Report.

BEES in this locality seemed to come through till about 1st of April all right; but owing to the absence of honey-producing flora, many starved, others dwindled—average loss in this locality about 25%. Those who saw that their bees had lots of food in the fall came out well. Bees are later swarming this year than usual by at least two weeks. Little or no surplus honey has been stored yet. There is an abundance of clover, but weather so cool and rainy not much has been collected. Second growth basswood show good signs of blossom. Didn't climb to see what the old fellows look like, but they seemed to yield best last year.

JAMES SHAW.

Kemble, July 1st, 1892.

Palestine and Tunisian Bees.

THIS is a very busy season with us, making comb foundation still. The orange trees are filling the air with their odor, and the bees are busy. From sunrise to sunset all is movement, diligence and bustle. It was too warm in February, and the bloom was out ten days too soon; this generally proves a great loss, for the bees are not all quite ready. February was just as warm as March, the thermometer never going below 14° Celcius (57.20 Fahr.) before sunrise, i.e., the coldest time in the twenty-four hours. At noon it only once rose to 22° C. (71.60 F.), but as a rule remained at 17° or 18° (62.60 or 64.40 F.). This equal temperature was not very conducive to the flow of nectar, and up to the 16th of March we only had 1 kilo, 500 grammes brought in, and on the 16th 2 kilos.

On account of poor health and other reasons I shall leave Palestine in May, and settle in the south of France, and if you are passing Marseilles from Algiers or Tunis I should be glad to know it and call upon you. I followed your "Punic war" with interest, and have been wholly on your side of the question. I have had Tunisian bees in my apiary, and found them a busy, prolific, but a very robbing race. Just to mention to you one case, I had one hive of Tunisians in 1896 and several hundred Palestines. At the end of April a window of the honey house was left open by accident without being covered by the wire gauze. In this room there were several tanks holding 500 pounds of honey each, and one happened not to be covered with the muslin. The orange blossom was over,

and the robbers made a start, but imagine my surprise when I found dead *Tunisians one inch deep*, and only a few Palestines. I would call them 99 per cent. greater robbers than Palestines; at any rate the dead were in this proportion. They are very tenacious robbers, and very difficult to send away, and contrast unfavorably with our Palestines, who will leave off robbing after an hour or two even in the worst cases. PH. J. BALDENSPERGER, Jaffa, in the British Bee Journal.

[We can thoroughly endorse all our correspondent says about Tunisian bees and their robbing propensities, notwithstanding what has been said to the contrary by persons interested in their sale. As none of these bees are now being imported into this country, and as it is more than three months since any have been sent over, it is fortunate that the few queens that came over before that time are not likely to have much contaminated our own races. We very much doubt if there is any bee-keeper in this country who has a pure Tunisian queen, and if there happens to be such a queen she must be pretty aged. We shall have a good deal more to say about Tunisian bees now that we have returned from Tunis, but must reserve this for a special article. We need hardly tell our correspondent that, although we made the most careful investigations, we failed to find any of the so called Punic bees.—EDS.]

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Report from Friend Schulz.

ON account of sickness I was compelled last season to reduce my stock of bees to eight colonies; they increased to twelve, and I had over 400 lbs. of honey from them. I put them in the cellar on Nov. 4th, and they wintered well, consuming on an average 12 lbs. of honey to each colony. Taking them out of their winter quarters, April 22nd, I found one drone layer; leaving her for a week, and noticing no improvement, I pinched her head off and united the colony with another.

This spring has been very unfavorable, there being very few days in which the bees could fly, and had it not been for the close attention given them I fear they would have fared badly; but as the majority of them have 12 combs building queen cells, and inclining to swarm, which I prevent by placing on second storeys, I hang two or three combs with brood in the second storey, and as many empty combs in the brood nest. If they should swarm now I would require to feed them, as there is no honey