

# Reports of the Season.....

(Continued.)

1. Swarming about nil here in '95.  
2. Bees wintered good in my locality where they were properly fitted up in the fall. The farmers lost very heavy, many lost all. Old bees and scant stores was the cause of their great losses.

3 Bees built up well in spring and began swarming early.

4. White clover began to blossom here on the 22nd of May, the earliest ever known, but the long dry weather and cold nights was much against the clover doing well, so that the crop from clover was only fair to middling. I also noticed that some colonies did not put enough honey in the brood nest so as to keep a quantity of unsealed honey there to feed the larvae well, and the result was a good deal of starved brood all over Ontario. When bees are gathering abundance of honey they always keep the brood nest well supplied with unsealed honey, and the brood is always well fed at such times. The small larvae will be almost floating in food then, and the larger larvae will be very fat and not one cell with dead brood in. When the flow from clover slacked up the bees continued to store in the supers the most of what they gathered then, and then the brood chambers ran out of unsealed honey at a time when it was needed most to feed the large quantity of larvae on hand. I am perhaps the only man living that has taken this line, and I have spoken and written on this for over fifteen years. I have never yet failed to convince any man when I took the combs out of hives and showed him the difference between well fed and poor fed larvae. The bees from some queen's are poorer feeders of larvae than they are from others, and in such cases they should not be bred from but be replaced by ones from colonies that are good feeders. Bee-keepers should buy more queens than they do, and then wait until they see how their stock does the bill and if they prove good raise more queens from them, and then weed every queen that don't fill the bill.

Basswood made the grandest show in blossoms this year that I ever knew it to but the flow of honey from it was almost a failure.

6. Bees did well on thistle, it was one of the best thistle flows we ever had, and the bees gathered thistle honey right at the time that basswood was in bloom, and enough basswood in many cases to strongly flavor the thistle with basswood has caused some to think that their bees did well on basswood. Thistle honey when stored in snow white combs so as not to have it stained and left with the bees until every sell is sealed, what honey can beat it in flavor?

7. No buckwheat grown in my locality, but I believe it will be good when it is grown this year.

8. Bees swarmed to "beat the band" this year. Broke every known rule, and often wasted a lot of time with such work.

The wild white clover is showing up well in old mother earth, and is now fast getting into its old time shape through the fine summer rains that we have had. I almost feel it in my bones that we will have a big crop of honey in 1897. Bees are going into the fall in the best condition that they have in many years. Things could not have a much brighter outlook. Foundation will be in great demand next year, and so it should, because it is one of the best things ever brought into any apiary. It does not pay to let bees build their own comb, and every person should for his own interest use more foundation than he does.

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I kept bees for the first time last year. I began with one colony which swarmed once. Both colonies wintered well on the summer stands. They built up well in the spring. The clover flow was good, but very little basswood honey as it rained almost every day during the basswood flow. There are very few thistles and no buckwheat in this vicinity. My bees swarmed more than enough. I have now five colonies and have got about one hundred lbs. of honey and expect as much more from golden rod which will be in about 1st September.

JOHN MACALONEY.

Halifax, N. S., Aug. 22nd, 96.