

## A PARRY SOUND APIARY

Editor Canadian Bee Journal:

Dear Sir,—I am well pleased to give you a short history of my bee-keeping in connection with the photo which I send herewith. In the latter part of July, 1900, I bought two swarms of bees for \$8, and brought them home over 40 miles of a rough road by Gettysburg wagon. When I got home I could scarcely tell what I had; the nearest I could come to it was a mixture of honey, bees and comb. I put each swarm on a screen and washed them clear of honey, and saved in this way about one-quarter of the bees; was lucky to save the queens. There was not nectar enough for the bees to gather to live on, and so I had to feed them with sugar syrup. I had then two good hives to put into winter quarters (outdoors). They came out all right the following spring, and that season they increased to seven, and I took a little over 200 pounds of honey from them. In 1902 they increased to 15, but I lost one the following spring. In wintering I left the hives on their summer stands, put each hive in a larger case, leaving six inches of space all around; this I filled with dry sawdust. I took off the covers from the hives, put on Hill's deerskins with burlap cloth over each and a cushion filled with dry sawdust or straw on top, and filled the six-inch space above with sawdust, put a waterproof cover on the top of the outside case and left them for the winter. I left the entrance full width of the hives, three-eighths opening. In this way I wintered successfully, but it was too expensive. I then built a cellar of stone on a hillside, covered with

oak beams and double floor with two feet of sawdust on floor, and lumber roof; this I find the most convenient. In this cellar the temperature does not vary more than two degrees, while the bees are in it, from 46 to 48 degrees Fah.

On the 10th of November, 1903, I put in 85 hives, and that winter lost only ten, when the reports from other places were 60 to 70 per cent loss, and these 85 hives, with few exceptions, were by the end of December about starving. I found a way to save 75 out of the 85. I put my hives in the cellar without the bottom boards, on beams 18 inches from the floor, with honey boards left on the hives as they are used in summer (I use honey boards instead of cotton quilts) and tiered up four and five high, put strips 1x2 inches between each tier, so that the bees could move from one comb to another with ease. I left an eight-inch space between each hive on the row; this eight-inch space answered for examining the bees as well as feeding. The feeding part, which was done with sugar syrup, made of equal parts of sugar and water—the best Redpath granulated sugar. I used tin dishes, which I placed on blocks high enough to reach the cluster of bees under each hive to be fed, and I put cut straw in the dishes to prevent drowning. Remember, that by leaving the eight-inch space by the height of the hive and no bottom board leaves the full cluster of bees in view, so that the feeding can be easily done. The bees will take one dishful of warm syrup up in two or three hours, and fed twice a day for a week, will leave the hive O.K. in the spring. I put 112 hives in the cellar in November 1, 1904, and they came through in splendid shape. Of course, I might say it is always best to give the bees all the feed they require in September; give no less than to make the hive,