

more room for clustering. This has been a remarkable year in many respects. Clover (usually a good crop here) was scarcely up to average; basswood, good; buckwheat and fall flowers, a failure. Many stocks examined after the frost had cut off fall bloom, had very little honey, having consumed an astonishing amount of stores since basswood was in bloom. Consequent upon such circumstances very little brood was found in the combs. This will be a good winter to test the theory lately advanced by several prominent bee-keepers that young bees are not necessary to the successful wintering of a colony. My own opinion is that while a colony composed largely of old bees *may winter* comparatively well and with a favorable spring give good results the following season, a backward spring will almost invariably cause such a colony to dwindle to a very small nucleus, if it does not "peg out" altogether. I say "young bees" every time. I shall carefully note the difference this spring between colonies stimulated by slow-feeding previous to feeding rapidly for winter stores and those not so treated. Bees in this locality were gathering pollen as late as November 12th; where they found it was a mystery to me, as I failed to find a single flower in bloom at that date. Possibly they obtained it in some sheltered spot where frost did not affect the flowers to the extent it did in this immediate vicinity. My yield this past season was 100 lbs. per colony spring count, two-thirds of which was stored in sections, the balance extracted and nearly all from basswood. Taken altogether I consider the season below the average and the above yield was only secured by the closest attention at the time honey was coming in.

Ridgeway, Ont.

You are quite right in watching and noting the difference between young and old bees. Give us your experience through the JOURNAL. Observing the finer points in connection with bee-keeping is what tends to make it a success. Your yield of honey was certainly very good considering the unfavorable season and denotes excellent management on your part.

HONEY AND SUGAR SYRUP MIXED FOR WINTER STORES.

MISS H. F. BULLER.—I must send you a report of my summer's work with the bees before we come to the end of 1885 or you will think that I have got tired of them which is very far from being the case. Well, to begin I told you in the spring that I had wintered 17 colonies out of 19. Although I tried to prevent swarming as

much as possible, my stock had increased by the fall to 39 colonies, and I sold 3 first and 1 second swarm, besides and had a couple at least escape to the woods. My honey crop was about 1400 lbs. principally extracted. The season was not very favorable, for though white clover was usually plentiful, it yielded little if any honey. Raspberry bloom was good and Alsike clover did very well, also basswood as long as it lasted, but it passed very quickly owing to the great heat just after it came in bloom. Thistles yielded moderately. I did not put my bees into their winter quarters till the 26th of November as the weather was not very cold and I was in hopes they might have a chance for a good flight before I put them in the house, but no, there was never enough sun. I have 17 in the house and 5 out of doors, packed in sawdust, 22 in all, which is as many as I care to keep for another year. I entirely agree with Mr. S. T. Pettit in his article in the C. B. J. for Dec. 16th, his opinions on every point coinciding with my own. What little feeding I had to do in the fall I mixed just enough syrup with honey to prevent it from granulating for I found last winter that those colonies fed with honey and a little syrup wintered quite as well as those fed with syrup alone. Campbellford, Dec. 23rd.

The fact of your wintering 17 colonies out of 19 last winter (one of the severest within our recollection) is proof positive that you at least have solved the wintering problem. What you say about basswood is quite correct; it yielded only a very short time. Perhaps this was owing to the hot weather, as the bloom seemed to dry up or cease to yield so soon. You say you increased to 39 and now go into winter quarters with 22; we suppose you either sold or doubled up the other colonies as doubling up and making colonies very strong for winter is practised by some who do not wish increase. If you doubled up some colonies and left others without, give us results in spring.

EXTRACTING, WHEN TO COMMENCE.

EMILE GARON.—What time do you set to commence extracting honey and to discontinue?

Extract as soon as the bees commence storing in the brood cells and crowding the queen for room. We discontinue extracting before the honey flow is over so that the bees may have a chance to store enough, if possible, to carry them through the winter, if we intend them to winter on honey, which is now probably the better way, taking into consideration the price of honey.