

When setting them out I put them in clamps, which I think helped them materially; they numbered eight in the fall after losing three swarms and doubling up three more. I secured eighty pounds of surplus honey, or twenty pounds with spring count. I am a great advocate of strong colonies, and, if possible, hiving two swarms together if not too large, or doubling as soon after swarming as practicable; as an evidence, on 7th July I hived two swarms together making a very strong colony. From this I took fifty pounds of surplus honey and it weighed seventy-two lbs. when placed away on the 21st of November; another I hived—or rather a friend of mine in my absence did—on the 7th of August and it weighed 53 pounds on the same date (Nov. 21st).

Next year I intend tiering up as much as possible, and the plan I have mapped out for myself is this. About swarming time to go through my hives cutting out all the queen cells, and placing an empty hive filled with racks and starters beneath the old one—please excuse the Hibernicism—leaving them for say a week, or until well drawn out, then reversing the position of the hives, replacing the old one on the stand and putting the other with starters, bees and all on top of the old one, and then when this is full putting another hive filled as before between these two to be filled in turn.

My experience with queen-excluders or honey-boards is that in the strong colony before mentioned it proved no absolute hindrance to brood being placed in the upper hive, as quite late in the autumn when I came to remove the surplus honey I found, notwithstanding the honey board, that five racks contained from three inches square to half a rack of beautiful capped worker brood, so you see they are not an infallible obstacle. I think if they are used, that they would be improved by being made small enough to drop in so as to rest on the frames or nearly so, as the bees appear to look upon it as a matter of honor to fill up the space between with comb and honey, which I think could be avoided by the plan I suggest.

This has drawn itself out to a greater length than I had anticipated, but if you deem it worthy of a place in your columns, and have room for it, I shall be proud to consider myself a contributor.

H. B. WHITE.

Prescott, Ont., Dec. 17th, '87.

We are pleased to note the interest you take in our JOURNAL. In reference to the perforated wood and metal honey boards we have not known of any queens passing through these to the

upper story and we have used several hundreds of them, but we have known the metal to be placed in, leaving some spaces larger at the ends, and a queen would pass through; sometimes the perforated metal drone traps are the same. If the corners are not bound as they should be, so that the edges of the metal fit down tightly to the bottom of the hive when they are placed on the entrance, queens sometimes get out, and we have known swarms to issue in that way. There has been perforated metal sold, and we believe is being sold yet, that is much too large and allows queens to pass and repass through it. We have never dealt in it. Considering the poor season we think you did fairly well. We hope you will be successful in wintering next year and you may have a more favorable report.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

TOO MUCH POOR HONEY SOLD.

IF every bee-keeper would only sell choice honey there would be more honey used. In the C.B.J., of December 14, we have a valuable letter from J. F. Dunn. I am pleased to see that he has put his foot down on poor honey. I hope others will do the same. Honey gathered in spring from fruit bloom, dandelion and other things is only second class honey and *never* should be mixed with clover honey. When my bees begin gathering honey from clover I extract all the honey from every hive as I do not want any of the spring honey to get mixed in with my clover honey. Some of this second class honey will be old honey left from wintering the bees and some will be fruit bloom, and some will be from dandelions and other things and some will be new honey gathered from clover. I put this second class honey by itself, I heat it well and skim it which improves it very much, I then sell it all at home. I soon get it all sold as I only charge a little over half the price of clover. Very choice clover or basswood honey will always sell well and bring new customers, but to be very choice in flavor both clover and basswood honey *must* be very bright in color and extra thick in body. *Where the color and the body are the flavor will be there also.* The flavor of honey is in proportion to its color and body which are the *two main points* to judge honey by. I have not had any buckwheat honey in nine years and I do not want any of that black trash about me. I don't want my bees to winter on such stuff. I want my bees to winter on the very best of honey. I don't want bright honey stained with that black