

Reports From Bee Keepers

REV. JAS. FRAZER, of Sutton West writes,—I have been twelve years in the bee line, and have had a new experience. My whole stock last fall was fourteen. I now have five and they are pretty well reduced. Whether I can bring them to time for the clover or not I cannot tell. In one way it was all my own fault and in another hardly, any way it is another lesson, not to take anything for granted in this line of business, I suppose that holds good in every line. The reason of my loss was want of stores. Our honey season dropped off short at end of July and there was no honey gathered after that. I began last season with ten, increased to fourteen, extracted 628 pounds; bees were in good condition when I fixed up for winter but I did not extend as to stores so the poor bee died of starvation. I winter in summer stands in double-walled hives, my frame is the Quinby. I did not extract from the brood chamber and have eight frames in it. I am using frames six inches deep in super. Don't you think we have had enough about that incorporation business?

MR. D. J. DEWAR, Kertoh, writes that bees are carrying in pollen to-day. I wintered 24 in fine condition, lost one, and have one queenless. Looking for good season this year.

April 3rd, '92

MR. ROBT. SHAW, of Rosemont writes:—My bees have come through the winter all right, I put 70 colonies away last fall and they have all come through in good condition, 65 on summer stands, and five in the cellar. In the winter of '91 I wintered 70 on summer stands without the loss of any. I have been keeping bees six years and have not lost a colony in wintering, nor yet have I lost any in the spring. I think I have the best way of wintering there is going. I would not want any better plan, good boxes, plenty of food and a good yard.

WM. ELSON, of Port Moody, B. C. in a correspondence says:—During the last fortnight we have had very severe weather here, hail, snow and frost, while cherries, plums, peaches, pears and all other small fruits are in full bloom, this will be a hard blow on us as we were boasting of bringing through 24 hives without the loss of apparently a bee, this we made from eight hives in the spring and sold \$80. worth of honey, bread and what we used and gave away to friends.

MESSRS. F. H. AND E. H. DEWEY, of Westfield,

Mass., write:—Pasturage is very unreliable, and we must close out for a time but expect to resume again in the near future.

A. MURPHY, Bluevale, writes us:—My bees did very poorly last summer, did not keep themselves. Had no increase and have lost some during the winter, cannot say much about them as the spring is cold and backward up to this time.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

When Will Bees Swarm.

PLEASE could you inform a new beginner through your JOURNAL how he can tell just when bees are going to swarm and oblige.

S. MAY,

March 11th, '92.

Littlewood, Ont.

We think there is no way we could describe through the JOURNAL, except you open the hive and watch when they are capping the queen's cell and they will swarm the next day; occasionally a swarm issues just before the queen cells are capped. As soon as you find larvae in the cell, you should watch your hive. After the first swarm issues you will hear the queens piping if you listen at the hive.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Spring Management.

IN spring management I do not spread brood (as I cannot tell what the weather is to be), but bore holes through the comb, which the bees and queen can pass as they become numerous enough to require it, and I have the gratification of knowing that I have not mis-used my bees, and these small holes are used for a winter passage, and opened in the fall if closed up by the bees, which they will sometimes do. I make two holes near the top layer. When the discussion came on the closed end layer I took the fever. Feeling that I would be safer while transporting bees I made a few hundred frames. Did I like them? No. When I made one attempt to extract honey from those frames, where the honey was sufficiently cured, the combs too would leave the frames as a bee space would not allow a comb to rest against the basket, and with tender combs much damage was done, as I had only a two frame extractor much time was lost in reversing combs by hand. To throw all the honey out of one side at a time the comb would be broken by the force of the honey on the other side; and for me, give me the open end frame,