

Some Questions.

Winter Stores.—The Bee Moth.

Editor Canadian Bee Journal:

DEAR SIR.—I have a colony of bees in one of your No. 3 Dov. hives (8 frames), that weigh 61 pounds, such as it now stands—that is after the top hive with the surplus honey has been taken off. I see that 30 to 35 pounds of stores are required to winter. Would you kindly let me know if I am safe in having 35 pounds of stores in this hive. That would be allowing 26 pounds for weight of hive, frames (8), bee glue and bees, and do you think it is all right to winter in a good large dry cellar. I think I took the upper hive off too late, so as to give them time to store below in the brood nest, as they seem to have been storing all above, leaving the lower hive short of stores. Now I must tell you what I have been doing and how I succeeded for my first attempt with bees. As I wrote you before, I purchased an old box hive of common black bees last spring, and transferred them into two of your No. 3 Dov. hives (divided them with brood) on July 1st, and Italianized them both with untested queen I got from you. Now one of my hives weigh 95 pounds and other of pounds, as stated above, and besides have 60 pounds of honey to extract. I would have done much better than this if I had had a little experience and not have handled them as much as I did. Total outlay of money, about \$10. Stock and surplus honey now on hand, \$26. How's that? As I am very anxious to winter these two colonies safely, any suggestions from you will be gladly received.

Yours truly,

Quebec, Oct. 9th, '97. A. R. ROBINSON.

P. S.—The untested queens turned out pure Italian stock.

[ANSWER—I am in receipt of your letter, and am pleased to hear that your bees have so well done, especially in the district where the honey flow has been comparatively poor. I must confess that in the past I have considered Italian bees more desirable for many reasons, but have not considered them much better for actual honey gathering. From many reports I

have heard from bee-keepers in the Ottawa Valley who have had our stock of Italian bees side by side with the black, I must confess that I believe they must be decidedly better for honey gathering. There is of course, something in the strain of bees, but would not like to give that sole credit. As to wintering bees, 61 pounds for stores, bees, hive, etc., is in my estimation, quite sufficient for winter stores. You will, in all probability, have thirty pounds of honey. You certainly did very well with your bees. ED.]

THE BEE MOTH.

Editor Canadian Bee Journal:

DEAR SIR—Kindly let me know the best means of destroying the bee moth. Answer through the Canadian Bee Journal.

J. BULL.

[ANSWER—To your question, "How to destroy the Bee Moth" would say, that the black bees are much more liable to attack from the bee moth. Italian bees defend their hive much better. Next, you want to keep strong colonies. In nearly every instance serious damage is only done when the hive is weak and does not cover its combs. Accurately made hives with correct bee space, is important. Next, leave extracting combs on the hives until danger from bee moth is passed. When taken from the hive, keep the combs spread in the hive just as they should be when with the bees, and put several sheets of paper between each tier of combs, closing up any opening that may be in the supers or bodies of hives containing combs. This is the best method of preventing the bee moth. Frequent brimstoning will destroy them.—ED.]

Israel Overhold, South Cayuga, says: I have taken The Canadian Bee Journal from its first issue. It never was so well conducted, and full of good, practical information, as at the present time.

Mr. Gammell has been very busy this summer. He has promised to renew his articles.—ED.

Next number of The Canadian Bee Journal will contain several County convention reports.