

hard work just \$42.88 out of pocket. Now, that is the way the cash stands. Against the three years' work and the \$42.88 deficit, I have in winter quarters 28 colonies of Italian bees, worth, I should think, at present, \$7 a colony or \$161; fixtures, etc., say \$39, in all \$200. Deduct \$42.88 from this amount, and I stand ahead \$157.12. I am charging nothing for my own labor and time. I am willing to allow as credit against that the experience gained. I have been induced to give this plain unvarnished statement, as I think too many are induced to enter upon beekeeping as a vocation from reading accounts which I cannot help thinking are in many instances exaggerated. It is human nature that men should not wish to publish to the world their failures, but, on the other hand, are anxious to have their fellow men think them just a little beyond themselves, and as a consequence, men, constantly seeing the credit side of the account, forget there is a debit side as well, and rush into a business which results to them, in many instances, in disappointment and failure. I keep abreast the times by reading nearly everything I can buy in the shape of bee literature. I am deeply interested in the pursuit, and give a great deal of time to it, spare no expense in procuring the best supplies, queens, etc. I have not once failed in introducing a new queen; have not lost one swarm of bees, nor have I lost, as yet, a colony in wintering; still, withal, I must have sadly bungled the business somewhere down the line, or I should—if the great majority of the reports in the BEE JOURNAL are true—be able to show, after my three years' work, a more satisfactory balance sheet. What says the Editor?

C. H. CORBETT,

Kingston, Ont., Canada.

We are pleased to have your accurate report. We think such a report must be more encouraging and satisfactory to beginners than many of the high colored ones. It shows clearly that where proper investment is made in bee-literature and the subject thoroughly studied in a few years a mere novice may become master of the situation. To commence with two colonies and in three years clear \$157.12 is better in proportion to the investment than any other we know of. Your experience and the knowledge you gained during the term is worth more to you than your time and labor, now you are just where you can commence making money. Why friend Corbett with fifty or one hundred

colonies to start with and no better success you would have had quite a little fortune. Your facts and figures ought to encourage many to go into the business.

For the Canadian Bee Journal

#### A Report from the N.W. Territory.

YOU do not get many reports from the North West Territory so that perhaps mine may be interesting. I had three colonies of bees in the spring of 1887; on the 20th April they began carrying in pollen. My first swarm was on the 11th of June and this swarm filled nine frames with honey and young brood and swarmed again on the 16th July. The parent hive in this case swarmed again on the 21st June, and the third time on the 23rd. The other two hives have not swarmed for two seasons. I found dead queens at the entrance of their hive during the swarming season so I think they superceded their old queen. The hive which gave forth the three swarms was left queenless for about three weeks before I became aware of the fact. The third swarm had three queens issue with it so I thought best to double up the parent colony with the third swarm. The honey crop was fair during the months of June and July though August should be the best month for honey gathering in this locality, but last season it was a total failure and my total production was only one hundred pounds of honey. I transferred one colony from a box hive in August last to a Jones hive, feeding them honey from the old combs. They are wintering without pollen. Pollen is gathered from a shrub blooming through the spring season on the open prairie. I think that if we were to have a severe drought in mid-summer bees would be likely to dwindle very much. I have noticed during a time of dry weather that the bees go to the woods, cliffs and deep ravines, and work on golden rod and blue saltee. The flowers that grow on the open prairie in time of drought suffer more from heat and wind and are barren of nectar. I do not wish you to understand from this latter portion of my letter that I am desirous of discouraging anyone from keeping bees in the Northwest because along the banks of the river and in other localities there is lots of good bee pasturage. I have now six colonies in winter quarters. They are very quiet and have shown no signs of uneasiness up to this time.

JOHN HEMSWORTH.

Sunnymeade, Assi., N.W.T. March 22nd, '88.