

dance of willow herbs within reach of his bees, provides them with an almost unlimited supply of honey. One of the largest yields ever taken in the province was reported from your neighborhood or rather nearer Orillia some years ago—One colony increased to fifteen and gave over 600 pounds of surplus honey, while all the fifteen colonies except one or two had sufficient stores for winter. We have noticed in the locality of Bracebridge, especially on the south side of the river, large quantities of ground or dwarf maple which is an excellent honey bearing plant, it commences about the time fruit bloom is over and usually continues for about three weeks. It is not an unusual occurrence, where bees are strong, for them to store large quantities of honey from it, but it is more frequently the case, that it serves—as a connecting link, between fruit bloom and clover, and keeps bees breeding, to their fullest capacity. Sandy land frequently gives earlier honey than clay, but we have noticed the bees sometimes working much longer on the clayground, when the season is suitable. Than again we have known the clay ground to be so wet, that the clover, or other honey plants, fail to secrete while the sandy ground gives good returns. On the whole we think it is better, for a person to be in a locality, where the soil is varied. This is more likely to give a permanent yield. The doubling down of bees late in the fall, will very often result in dysentery, before spring, or weak and depopulated swarms in the spring, which is not unfrequently followed by spring dwindling. There is no doubt, that one of the fatal mistakes, that we too frequently make, is not preparing our bees early enough in the season. If every colony was prepared for winter, before the 1st of Oct., and those packed outdoors, by the 1st or middle of Sept. there would be fewer dead colonies in the spring.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

#### Different Thickness of Comb Foundation in Sections.

I HAVE read with interest the answer to the query about united experimentation and the one upon different thicknesses of comb foundation in sections. Unfortunately I have not the copy of C. B. J. to hand, so can only write from a general recollection of the answers

given. I may say the reason why the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union selected the experiment with different thicknesses of comb foundation was because there are a good many who are using brood foundation to put in the sections, and we thought the results in the experiment would show that heavy foundation is not desirable as generally it remains heavy and the consumer finding such an amount of beeswax amongst the honey would lose the case for comb honey and in such instances a consumer of the article, we are so much interested in be lost. If we have say 100 bee-keepers test the matter and can give the results to the bee-journals, agricultural papers and have them published in one government report, I think it will attract the attention of a certain class of bee-keepers to the matter in a more forcible manner than it has hitherto been presented, very likely our best bee-keepers will say I must have met a very peculiar class of bee-keepers when brood foundation is used in sections, yet there will be many agree with me in this matter.

As to experimental apicultural stations, I must say I favor them, much good work may be done in other branches of agriculture, perhaps in the past the reason they have not done more is because men not practical have been chosen. a notable instance I now recollect is where the gentleman in charge proposed confining the bees to the hives during the season the grapes ripened should it be shown the bees injured the grape.

I look for good results under Prof. Cook at the Mich. Agricultural College.

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#### Queen-Excluding Honey-Boards, Etc.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

ALLOW me, Mr. Editor, to say a few more words relative to Query 767. By the replies to that query I see that some think that not as much honey will be stored above a queen-excluder as there would be if no such honey-board was used. I have very carefully tested this matter, for both comb and extracted honey, and while I can see no difference in the least in regard to comb-honey, I think that I do see a difference as regards extracted-honey, the same being in favor of the excluders—not against them, as some would have it.

Without the excluders, the queen is bound to spread her brood to her utmost capacity, filling not only the lower story, but much of the comb in the upper story as well. This having brood in the combs you wish to extract from is a great