

entire energies to feeding the larvæ; the queen had deposited eggs in four times the quantity she had previous been doing, or it she had depositey them before, the bees had removed them, as before the pollen was given them, there were very few eggs to be seen. From the time mentioned to the present, there has been plenty of natural pollen to be had by the bees.

Feed Your Bees.

THOUSANDS OF COLONIES STARVING TO DEATH.

SO MANY colonies are starving in every apiary that we may safely say that thousands of colonies are starving in Canada at the present time. The cold weather causes bees to eat more than they would in warm weather, as they are forced to eat to keep up the animal heat. It seems a great neglect on our part when sugar is only five or six cents a pound and syrup can be made in the proportion of two of water to one of syrup, that our bees should suffer. A feeder should be set on top of the hives at the entrance, or if the combs are lifted out and enough syrup poured into two or three combs to keep them until the honey begins to come in. There are very few apiaries, that if examined during the last few days, will not be found to contain starving colonies. It is not necessary for the old bees to starve and die before the colony is permanently injured, but when the hive contains such a small quantity the bees fail to see their way clear to carry on brooding, and the result is they curtail brood-rearing when the stores are about exhausted and they then cease feeding the brood. After the stores are entirely exhausted it is a very common habit for bees to bite open the young larvæ and suck the inside in order to prevent them from starving. We have opened the hives and found the larvæ just ready to be capped over, the skin punctured by the bees and the abdomens entirely gone. Such larvæ would be quite black and dried up, others would just have been operated upon by the bees and scarcely dead. This is a state of affairs, which, at this season simply means loss and destruction to the entire colony, because before the old bees can commence rearing

young, so many of the them have died that there will be no bees left to care for the brood and it will of course perish. Every colony should contain from five to fifteen pounds of food, according to the strength of the same, and the requirements up to the time that the honey flow commences. This will encourage them to liberal brood-rearing and will pay better than any other expenditure in connection with the apiary. In fact, after weak colonies have allowed their brood to perish, it is better to double the bees up with another colony and save your combs.

Now friends, do not take it for granted that your colonies have plenty of stores; make sure by examining them and you will perhaps find this a timely warning. We know of whole apiaries that have been almost entirely lost for want of stores, and we know of but few that have not suffered during the past month on this account.

"What Will The Harvest Be."

THE prospects for a good honey crop the coming season are better than they have been for many years, and we will not be surprised if in many localities the honey flow is far above the average. Those who have their bees in good condition may expect to be handsomely rewarded for their trouble. Some may say, why do you thus predict that such will be the case. Well, the largest honey flow we ever recollect having in Canada was a Spring very similar to this one, the season opened early with a few warm days, then we had a late cold backward spell and very few had their bees in good condition early in the season, yet it seemed in spite of the weak condition of the bees, every hive was filled with honey, every few days when I went to it, it seemed as if all the flowers yielded nectar very liberally. The clover was so full of honey, the bees did not seem to have to visit more than one or two heads to fill themselves and they did not appear to have to go very far from the Apiary. When basswood came in, every flower seemed to be filled with honey, on examining the blossoms by putting back the little leaves in them, at the base of each could be found a small drop of honey in fact there was some of them so loaded with honey