

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

FRIEND BULL'S REPORT.

YOU ask for reports, therefore I send you this, commencing just where I left off with the report which I sent you last April 22nd, which appears on pages 84-5 of CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. I then had twenty-two colonies and felt flattered that I should not lose any more: but the spring was very unpropitious; sudden and extreme changes of weather produced disastrous results, sometimes the sun would shine out warm and bright like a midsummer day, and thousands of bees would be out gathering honey and pollen from willow and soft maple; when suddenly a cloud would obscure the sun, and along with the cloud would come a cold wind which would produce an instantaneous change in the temperature sufficient to benumb any bees however vigorous before they could return to the hive if they were very far from home. I noticed several instances of this kind last spring, and I became really alarmed for fear that all my colonies would be ruined by the oft recurrence of these sudden changes. On examination after one of these disastrous changes I found four dead queens in one day. It appears as though the bees had become so disheartened, and demoralized that they knew of no way by which to sufficiently express their disgust only by killing their queens thus four colonies were rendered queenless. I united them with others on the 12th of May. Three other colonies swarmed out simultaneously, all united together and went into a hive containing another colony of their own accord without any interference on my part. This reduced my stock to fifteen colonies to commence the season of 1885 with, these increased to thirty-five, partly by natural swarming, and partly by division of colonies. The surplus honey season was very short here, and virtually closed with me on the 7th of July. I obtained only about 600 pounds of surplus, 407 of this was in one and two pound sections, the balance extracted. I had to feed about 200 pounds of sugar syrup this fall to make up deficiency in winter stores.

I have one colony of brown bees which, with a prime swarm which issued therefrom gave me 111 pounds of nice surplus comb honey in sections besides enough in brood nest to winter on. I intend to leave my bees on summer stands again this winter, all except two or three small colonies which I think I will put into my cellar when winter fairly sets in. In preparing for winter I have followed the same plan which I adopted last year, viz., after placing the cloth over the brood nest, I laid on four sheets of paper on top of it large enough to lap over onto the

sidewalls of the hive all around, then put on about six inches of chaff or sawdust (I use some of both) and press it down firmly into all the corners. I consider the paper to be a very important feature in the winter covering, as it effectually prevents any current of air and consequent rapid escape of heat: yet it is a good absorbent of moisture and with the sawdust above to take up the moisture from the paper it keeps the inside of the brood nest dry and sweet. If any one doubts the correctness of this theory I would like to have them give it a fair trial with one good healthy colony, and report the result. I have prepared two colonies according to the plan proposed by W. F. Clark, by making a hole in the bottom of the hive and a box eighteen inches deep underneath, with an inch and a half auger hole in opposite ends of box; wire cloth is tacked over the holes to keep out mice and a tin slide fixed so that they can be closed if the cold wind blows in to freely, these two colonies are otherwise prepared just the same as the rest of my bees.

When I commenced to write this report I intended to include some of my experience with the various methods of securing surplus honey, but as I see it is already too long, I will stop right here.

We are having mild open weather, coldest morning thus far was twenty above zero, the ground has been white with snow twice, but all went off within twenty-four hours. My bees have not been out to have a good flight since October 18th.

JOSHUA BULL.

Seymour, Wis., Ontagamie Co.,

December 3rd, 1885.

We, and so do all the rest, want to hear all about your experiments friend B. And everybody will look forward anxiously to know how the experiments you are now trying will turn out.

INCREASED FROM 30 TO 144 COLONIES AND TOOK
4,400 POUNDS OF HONEY.

WM. COLEMAN.—Began in the spring with 80 colonies of bees; increased to 144 and took 4,400 lbs. of honey—1,250 lbs. comb, and 3,150 lbs. extracted. This has been the poorest season with me for seven years. White clover was very thin; basswood yielded very little. My bees are all in the eight-frame Langstroth hive. I have them all stored away in a frost-proof beehouse.

Devizes, Ont., Nov. 27th, 1885.