

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

How I Manage Bees.

SIRS:—As it is nearly time to put bees away for winter, I will tell how I treat them. When cold weather seems to be settled, I put them in the cellar, but I do not stand them less than two feet from the cellar floor, it is too damp near the bottom. I leave the entrance wide open. Last spring we had nice warm weather in the first week of March, and some folks around here took out their bees and left them out.

Most of the bees around here had diarrhoea last winter; mine ad it quite badly; so on the first of March I took them out of the cellar near noon, and let them have a good fly, and towards evening I put them back into the cellar. They were not taken out again till about April 15th, when the willows began to blossom, as they are not so inclined to rob if there is something for them to gather. Some around here have their bees out two or three weeks before mine are out; but mine generally swarm as soon as theirs. One neighbor had twenty-five colonies last fall. He wintered some in the attic and some in a smoke house (he takes no bee papers), and this spring had two left.

After the bees have a good flight in the spring, I close the entrance to about half an inch, until the weather gets warmer and the hives more populous.

I hive the swarms on empty frames (I use the eight frame Wisconsin hive); and as soon as the bees are all in I put them on their permanent stands, placing the rear end four or five inches higher than the front, and they generally build the combs straight, as they start the combs in the upper back corner of the frame and work along it to the front. Second swarms I unite, first thoroughly smoking the one I wish to unite them with at the entrance. Any clean box will do to hive them in at first, and the next morning, after the bees are smoked you wish to unite them with, shake the swarm out of the box in front of the hive that is smoked, and drive them in with smoke. I have never seen any fighting, and they always did well. Mine are the common black bees.

About two weeks after a prime swarm is hived, I put a super on with starters in; when they have that about two-thirds filled, and I think they can fill another, a second is put on. I then raise the super up and slip the second between it and the hive. My first prime swarm, June 9, filled their hive and forty pounds in one-pound sections, and cast a very large swarm. My second prime swarm, June 17, gave me

forty-eight pounds of well-sealed sections, and have enough left to winter on.

I have never lost a swarm, by absconding, by this method. Yours, etc.,

JOHN M. SEILER.

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Bees on the Farm.

THE keeping of bees is a minor industry of the farm, which is capable of large and profitable extension. The business has its ups and downs, like everything else, but we rarely have a season in which a careful and intelligent bee keeper will fail to secure some profit. It is the direct companion industry to fruit culture, and some of the most successful small farmers, whom we know, rely almost equally upon these two branches of work. To show the relative value of the apiary to other branches of the farm, we may cite the case of a thrifty farmer whom we once visited. He was tilling about sixty acres of land, with diversified crops. The fields were clean and well cultivated, and the homestead showed evidences of prosperity. About five acres of the farm was occupied by orchard and small fruits.

"There," said the owner, "is where I make my money. I should be quite as well off in point of net income, if these five acres were all I possessed."

It was spring, and the orchard was in bloom. Upon the half-acre were a hundred stands of bees, and we heard a busy buzzing among the blossoms. "After all," said our friend, "these are my money makers, as well as my honey makers. They pay me more than everything else."

This is not an exceptional case. A hundred colonies of bees will often give a better net return, and with the investment of far less labor and capital than an ordinary fifty or sixty acre farm.

There is room for much expansion of this industry, for the production of honey is one of the things that certainly is not overdone. The public can be educated to the larger use of honey, and producers should make every effort to accomplish this. Not only is honey a delicious luxury for the table, but it is a useful concentrated food and has definite tonic effects. For children, especially, bread and honey would be better than bread and butter. It is more healthful and more economical as well. If bee men would use a uniform size of section it would facilitate the marketing of honey by increasing its popularity with market-men, and by sending out nothing, either in the comb or extracted, but what was clear, clean and