

"Canadian Bee Paper" and above is their reply, which we have pleasure in publishing. We must apologise for having unintentionally called the *Texas Bee Journal* by the wrong name; the error, however, originated with the compositor who set it up. We had written the publishers of the *Texas Bee Journal* saying that we had not received any numbers of that journal for two months, and had not received any reply nor have we yet, and we did not like to cut it off our list without knowing definitely that they had suspended its publication. This part being explained, the rest we leave to the readers of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, as to whether we have done right or wrong in the premises. We wished simply to have them understand whom the "Canadian Bee Paper" was published by. Whether the reasoning of the publishers of the A. B. J. is sound or otherwise, those who read may judge.

#### BULLETIN NO. 8.

##### WINTERING BEES.

THE importance of bee culture, as one of our national industries, is hardly appreciated. According to our well demonstrated modern philosophy, plants pour out their nectar as a sort of free coffee or lunch, to attract bees and other insects to a most important work in vegetable economy, the work of fertilization, which largely depends upon insects, and without which full fruitage is impossible. The simple work of gathering nectar then is indirectly of tremendous economic importance to the farmer and horticulturist, and so to our whole country.

Again, this nectar, when acted upon by the digestive juices of the bee, is converted into honey, a food long valued for its superior excellence, which, without bees, would be wholly lost; worse than lost, as we see from the fact stated above.

Bees, from their exceeding number and peculiar fitness for the work, are greatly superior to any and all other insects in the accomplishment of this fertilization of plants, while only the honey bees are abundant early in the season, and they alone save this valuable food element to

minister to man's good.

To show the activity of bees and their wondrous accomplishments, we have only to present well known facts. I find, by actual observation, that single flowers are sometimes visited by bees fifty times a day, and I have seen bees visit over twenty flowers a minute.

Mr. L. C. Root, of Mohawk, New York, (see *American Apiculturist*, Vol. III., page 197), extracted 4,103 pounds of honey on July 28th, 1885, collected from basswood, which had all been gathered by forty colonies of bees in just seven days. This is over 100 pounds per colony, and the daily stores of each colony exceeded fourteen pounds. During the same time we secured, here at the college, nearly half as much beautiful comb honey from single colonies.

I know of a farmer in this State,—a good farmer, with a farm of over 100 acres which he tills excellently well—who has kept bees six or seven years, and who, for the last three years, has had from sixty to eighty colonies; the cash receipts from these bees, during each of the last three years, exceeded those of the entire balance of his farm. During all these years this gentleman has never lost a colony of bees, till last winter, when one or two died of starvation. The same experience would be true of any farmer in almost any Michigan neighborhood; who would put the same thought, study, and energy into the business.

##### WINTER LOSSES.

The one great drawback in this industry is the danger of loss which comes with each of our severe winters, which are unpleasantly frequent of late. Last winter was one of the most severe. Judging from the experience of the last twenty years, these terribly cold winters may be expected about once in three years. If we may judge from the past, we may also safely assert that during these trying winters there will be a loss of from fifty to one hundred per cent of the colonies of bees in all the northern States. Such a loss as this, unless it can be prevented with ease and certainty, is too serious an obstacle in the way of success to be cheerfully endured, even by those in the most attractive and remunerative of employments, and it is generally to the praise of apiculture that, burdened with this loss, it has made such constant and rapid progress.

##### ARE SUCH LOSSES NECESSARY?

The fact that so many apiarists, like the one referred to above, meet with no loss, makes it clear that with full knowledge, followed by equal care and pains, this loss may be wholly prevented. Many of our best bee-keepers have no more fear of losing their bees than of losing their