

...The Canadian Bee Journal

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

NEW SERIES
VOL. IX, No. 2.

BRANTFORD, ONT., AUGUST, 1901.

WHOLE No
488

Annual Meeting

Twenty-First Annual Meeting Bee-Keepers' Asso., Ontario.

HELD AT
NIAGARA FALLS,
DEC. 4, 5, 6, 1900.

WINTERING BEES IN AND OUT.

By H. G. Sibbald, Cooksville, Ont.

Bees to be wintered successfully, in or out, must be properly prepared, and although preparing bees for winter might more correctly come under the heading of Fall Management, still, on account of its vital importance and influence on the Wintering Problem, I cannot pass it without notice. By September our bees ought to contain a well populated colony, and a good queen, being if possible, and before the end of October they should each contain not only bees and queen, but twenty-five to thirty-five pounds of ripened, well-capped stores, in more than six or seven average combs, with a division board on each side to keep them cosy, warm and dry.

When if we are to winter outside, we must put them up anytime in October, with two or three inches of sawdust, chaff, or leaves all around them on top four or five inches. We must also provide a good water-proof cover, and place the hive one foot from the

ground, contract the entrance, and very little, if any more attention will be required until Spring.

But if we decide to winter indoors, which I prefer, if a suitable cellar can be obtained, they must be left on their summer stands until about November 20th or December 1st., when a suitable day must be chosen after they have had a fly if possible, and before sufficient frost has come to freeze the moisture inside the hives. Have your cellar ready, clean, and sweet, stands arranged a foot or two from the floor, and away from the outside walls if space will allow; then, a day or two before moving in the bees loosen the bottom boards, place a new quilt or cover over any that have chewed holes in the cover, and you are ready.

Commence to carry them in by taking the one nearest the cellar, placing it to the further end of the cellar, keep on down that row, up the next, and so on until they are all in. You will then have no difficulty in placing them back on their old stands in the spring.

But to go back a little, the stands in the cellar should be two or three inches higher behind than in front, so that the hives will sit slanting towards the front when in; then raise the back of the hive of the bottom board and block it up with 3-8 of an inch block, thus providing for perfect ventilation the fresh air going

THE LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH