

When you have hard work to get the bees out of the sections, it is probable that the case has been left on too long, or at any rate, the bees were not doing much in the surplus department, and it was being used as a stow-away for young bees that had never been out of the hive, or at most, only a few feet from it.

Doolittle's method of removing the sections as soon as they are filled, although it may be more work, has the merits of obtaining more white honey, and always gives the bees plenty of business; also one never loses any young bees, as is frequently the case where the whole of the sections are removed at once.

As I had heard much guessing on the weight of a swarm of bees, and wishing to ascertain the facts, I weighed the hiving staff, and after getting a swarm clustered on it which was a medium-sized one, I found its weight to be 10½ pounds.

It is always best if you find that a colony has nearly finished a case of sections, and then have done but very little for two or three days, to remove it at once and give them a case of empty sections, as they might not finish it in several days. If a new one is given them, they usually go to work at once. The unfinished sections may be placed in the next case, or even given away, rather than let a colony lose so much time.

It is no use to disguise the fact that small sections sell the best. The two-pound sections run. go. The small sizes will contain only about half a pound in a few years. The most of mine at present will average about ½ of a pound, and it is very much less trouble to dispose of them. If I should make any new cases this season, they would be arranged for half-pound sections, perhaps two stories of sections in one case.

By planting the red raspberry, bee-keepers would have the best bee-pasturage known, and a crop of fruit also. Raspberry has never failed to furnish honey here. Last season we had an abundance of white clover, but not a drop of early honey from it. But for the raspberry, my crop would have been slim. Indeed, I count it the richest and best honey in the world, and red clover is second best.

With a natural swarm of bees it works well to remove the whole colony to a new stand and hive the new one on the old, as the parent colony usually contains much sealed brood that will hatch in a few days. But suppose a swarm is driven, and the old colony removed without making an examination. It might be that the colony contained but very little sealed brood,

and much in the larval stage. The consequence would be, that nearly all of the bees would return to the new swarm, not leaving enough for housekeeping, and the colony would be ruined, or at all events worthless for the season, unless built up from other colonies. It is an easy matter to see how this might happen through loss of a queen, and after the young one commenced laying there would be nothing but larvae and eggs in the hive.

H. ANDRE.

Lookwood, N. Y.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Wintering Outdoors.

IN THE COMBINATION HIVE.

YOU will remember I got three of your Combination hives last season as the description of them in the C.B.J. told me that they would suit me for I wanted to get a hive which was best adapted for comb honey. Previously I had been using the old "Thomas hive," but found it a complete failure. Then I tried the Jones hive. I found it very good for wintering, but better adapted for the English bee-keeper, as the honey season is longer there, and they are mostly wintered on summer stands. Now I believe the "Combination" is going to suit me. I got a first and a second swarm in them. I am trying to winter them on their summer stands, packed in boxes four inches larger each way, in chaff, with a quilt and six inches of chaff on top. The bottom entrance is stopped, and one made on top through the chaff box, something on the principle of the patent of Mr. Marshall, a neighbor of mine.

Yours truly,

ED. DICKENSON, Sr.

North Glanford, April 6, 1889.

Will you give us particulars as to how you bees wintered. Note all the points, number of bees on bottom board, amount of brood, stores consumed, if they have dysentery, size of entrance, how made and how protected. We had a Mr. Bruce in this neighborhood who wintered very successfully by packing in chaff all around, closing entrance and inserting a small tube at the top for ventilation.

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