

## COMMUNICATIONS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Bee Journal.

Dear Sir,—As I see you answer questions in the C. B. J. I thought I would ask you one.

In putting on the quilt for winter on top of the brood frames do you think it would be best to use some device say like Hill's to keep the quilt up from the frame so as the bees can go over or is it better to lay them close down on top of the frames.

M. BEAUPRE.

I should prefer to use some device such as the Hill on top of the frames and under the quilt, for outside wintering.—Ed.

Gentlemen,—I wish you to give me answer in your Journal to the following question.

I received a colony of bees from a party about the last of July. When I opened the hive I found a large number dead and from the large proportion of dead drones I would conclude there were few if any left. The party wrote me the hive was full of honey and bees and ready to swarm at any time. They have not swarmed yet. I observed for a week or two after receiving the colony the absence of drones, then I noticed a new breed of drones. Within the last week the workers killed a large number I should say in all some hundreds at a rough guess. Now what I wish to know is why don't they swarm and what is the reason of such a slaughter of drones after so brief an existence. Will they swarm yet?

J. H. LADD.

If the colony was not queenless and fertile workers produced the drones, which appears improbable in this case we find nothing unnatural in the fact that the bees destroyed their drones so quickly. The bees destroy their drones when the honey flow gives out and the likelihood of swarming does not exist.—Ed.

Dear Editor,—Thanks for the privilege of asking questions.

1. What is the best way to fix hives for wintering inside where there is no frost?
2. What is the best way when wintering outside in double hives?
3. Is there to be ventilation through the hives in either case, or in both, or not at all in either of them whether wintered inside or out?

4. What time do you consider best to remove the hive from their stand to cellars or beehouses to winter them?

5. Is cloth or wire cloth most used over the frame in winter?

REV. JOHN MAC WILLIAMS.

The above questions have been largely answered in this number of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. For wintering outside in chaff hives entrance full size with absorbents above viz., in the upper story, fold back one corner of the propolized quilt and cover it with fresh cotton. If you have been successful in winter in the past go slow in making a change. Every hive must have ventilation but ventilation often exists when we do not expect it. Every one who can obtain access to a library should study this question. In reply to question four would say just before settled cold weather, Never use wire cloth in connection with wintering.—Ed.

ANTIGONISH, N. S., Aug., 10 1893.

Editor of the Canadian Bee Journal.

I wish to purchase a couple of hives of bees. Is it too late in the season to get them. I know absolutely nothing about managing them, can you recommend a good book that will give all needful advice to a beginner. What kind of bees and what kind of hives would you advise. I will be thankful for any advice you can give me.

J. G.

We would not advise a beginner to purchase bees at this time of the year unless they were offered at a very low price. Bees should be carefully prepared for winter, enough stores left in the hive and properly packed. The winter is the most critical time for the bee-keeper and for it the bees require careful preparation. Buy strong full colonies, the latter part of May. There are a number of good books, write supply dealers for catalogues. Get the Canadian Bee Journal. Get Italian or mostly Italian bees.—Ed.

A recent advertisement in an English paper reads: "For Sale—A Bull terrier dog, two years old. Will eat anything: very fond of children. Apply at this office."—Selected.