

AN AMATEUR'S EXPERIENCE.

JAMES BEST, SANDFORD.—Sir, I am an amateur in bee culture, and seeing that you publish reports from all parts of the Dominion, I take the liberty of sending you an account of my experience in bee-keeping. Three years ago I had a colony given me in the fall by a friend, in one of the old box hives. I wintered them in the cellar of my house and the noise overhead kept them very uneasy all winter. In the spring I put them out on the summer stand. They took the spring dwindling, and before the flow of honey started they became very weak. I got one swarm from them the first summer and fifteen pounds of comb honey. The next summer I increased to eleven. Last winter I lost my old swarm that I still wintered in the cellar. All the other bees I put into the improved chaff hive. This summer I increased up to twenty-four. Some of the colonies that I worked for comb honey gave me fifty pounds and no swarms. The first swarms from the others averaged me about twenty-three pounds of fine comb honey. This year, in one locality, the only flow of honey to amount to much was from Alsike clover, thistle and basswood yielding very little. This fall I tried doubling up some of the late swarms on the plan given in your JOURNAL, and I must say that it worked like magic. I have taken the BEE JOURNAL since the first of September, and I consider that it has paid me three times the amount of subscription. How any one in the bee business gets along without it I cannot see. Pardon me for making the remark but I think that the professional bee keepers do not make themselves quite clear enough for greenhorns to understand. Any improvement or advice given in the JOURNAL should be clear and distinct so that it will be readily understood. At some future time I have some questions I would like to ask if agreeable to you.

Why certainly, friend Best, ask all the questions you like. That is just what the JOURNAL is for; to give the information required in connection with our pursuit. It will always afford us pleasure to answer any questions in the interest of bee-keepers. We sometimes think there are not nearly enough questions asked. We do not know what our friends want to know. If they will just ask, it will enable us to talk to them in their own interest and it makes the JOURNAL more interesting to have it filled with just such matter as all our friends desire. So now we shall expect to hear from you at your earliest convenience. Send on your questions, and no doubt you will ask many that will be as interesting to others as to yourself.

PROSPECTS GOOD.

H. COUSE.—Bees have wintered very well in this locality, although many have died from starvation, owing to the great amount of

feed consumed during the winter, and from this cause I have to admit that I lost ten colonies out of 100 put into winter quarters. I took most of them out of the cellar on the 8th, after which the weather was cold till the 13th, when I put the balance out and, as many were short of stores I fed about 200 pounds of honey. On the 16th the first pollen was gathered. It was from black alder. Soft maple and elm are yielding pollen and honey. Some strong colonies are capping honey now. Golden willow will also soon be in bloom. Taking it altogether this spring is very favorable for the bees. Prospects for bee-keeping this season seem good as the clover has wintered well and this is the season we expect a yield from basswood.

Cheltenham, April 27th, 1891.

HIS BEES WERE BURNED.

GEO. ROGERS.—Price list to hand and in reply would say I don't think I will need any supplies this season, as my house was burned on the 29th January last, and all my bees, but twelve hives. Under these circumstances I will ask if you would give me a yard to work on shares this season to help to raise my stock again. If you can let me know your terms at as early a date as you can so I can make arrangements to come and see you. Halton, April 9th, 1891.

We are sorry that Mr. Rogers met with the loss he did. We had all our help engaged before receiving this letter, otherwise we would have tried to manage with him. This is a splendid opportunity for some one wanting help or trained assistance. Write directly to Mr. Rogers to above address.

A SUFFERER BY FIRE.

On April 24th we received from W. A. Chrysler, Chatham, the following:—"Fire has destroyed my bee-hive factory and all its contents, machinery, hives, sections, lumber, etc., etc.; all gone except some smokers, honey knives, extractors, and a quantity of foundation, which were in another building." We wrote Mr. Chrysler to say that if we could do anything for him, we would be glad to do so, and to send on his order and we would furnish him goods to fill all his orders promptly. His order arrived yesterday, and to-day we are shipping him a very large quantity of perforated metal sections of suitable sizes for his customers, in short all the necessary goods he may require to fill his orders promptly, and we hope that his many friends will extend to him the patronage he deserves. Mr. Chrysler did not tell us whether he was insured or not, but as insurance on that class of property is so high, we fear he, like many others, has neglected that important duty.

Cowan's new book has some capital things in it—in fact it is all good. Hundreds of them are being sent out to bee-keepers in Canada.

* * * If you require catalogues, circulars, note heads, envelopes, or anything in the line of job printing give us an opportunity of estimating.