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Niagara frontier, close to the south shore of Lake Erie, only 265 feet above sea-level, and almost on the line between the forty-second and forty-third degree of latitude—to be exact, 42.33.17. If there is any place in Canada where during the winter months an excess of humidity exists, it is between the two great lakes on the Niagara frontier.

While it is seldom that the thermometer reaches zero, we have a good deal of cold, snappy weather. A change of twenty-four degrees in as many hours is very common, and forty degrees of change in the same time causes no great surprise.

Bees seldom get a flight from late fall until February and often not until March or April; just the requisite conditions to make bees uneasy, and if absorbents were necessary in localities further north, one would think they should be indispensable here. We have often wondered if in higher altitudes or further north they were needed.

The winter of 1910-11 was very severe, the coldest for many years. Three-fourths of our apiary was packed as above described, and came through with scarcely any loss. The balance were packed with planer shavings and some with forest leaves; part of them with honey-board removed and Hill device over the brood-frames, and on top of that packing to the depth of 12 inches. A few were packed over sealed covers. Nearly all our loss was in hives so prepared, although they wintered pretty well. Several times during the winter we removed the covers of these packing cases and found the shavings quite warm over strong colonies, from three to six inches above the bees, according to the state of the weather. Why compel the bees to warm and keep warm all those shavings when by lots of paper packing we may confine the heat to the inside of the hive, right where it should be? Any little moisture that forms, and it will be very little, the bees are only too glad to get.

Last winter was the most severe in Canada in 100 years. The official thermometer in the city of Buffalo, nine miles distant from our apiary, showed 18 degrees below zero, the coldest since the establishing of the Weather Bureau forty-two years ago, and we had steady cold weather throughout the entire winter—just the kind of a winter to find out what we wished to learn. Many times I listened at every entrance over my papered hives, and not even the gentle hum we all know so well could be heard in many of them. The first warm day out they boiled, and by fruit bloom a large force of young bees were flying. Three queenless colonies succumbed, and one packed with leaves only was sporting in the elysian fields. But at the advent of clover bloom the rest were "right there with the bells on"; then followed two weeks of the hottest weather I ever experienced. The clover dried up all too soon, but not before our rousing colonies had piled up an average of one hundred pounds each, stacked one super over another, and scarcely any of it capped—something I never saw before. One nucleus covering in the fall scarcely three frames wintered perfectly and gathered four supers of clover honey.

INSURANCE OF BEES IN SWITZERLAND

The twenty-fifth report of the Federal Office of Supervision of Private Insurance Companies in Switzerland lately published contains particulars showing the progress in recent years of all forms of insurance in that country. The fact that the sums paid by insurance offices subject to federal supervision during the twenty-five years from 1886 to 1910 amounted to about 727 millions of francs sufficiently shows the important place taken by insurance in Swiss economy. The report naturally refers to the various branches of agricultural insurance, and the chief data as to the