

well talked over, and many are anxious to have the JOURNAL filled up with some other matter. So supposing we let it rest, at least for a while, and see if we cannot talk about something relating to our present prospects of a honey crop, preparations for the same, best means of securing the best results, or anything that will tend to lessen the expense of production, simplify our management, or increase our yield; also improve our modes of marketing, increase our prices, and many other valuable things which have not received so much attention. By the way, supposing we suggest the propriety of some of our friend's inventing, without a patent, a bee hive temperer. Now we have heard a great deal about solar wax-extractors. If solar wax-extractors can be invented, why cannot some ingenious fellow invent a little simple inexpensive device which may be placed at the entrance of each hive or some other convenient place to reflect warm air into the hive? By this means, zero weather could be tempered to above the freezing point, and supposing the machine cost five or ten cents, if it allowed the bees to move from their cluster and use their stores with the thermometer 10° or 20° below zero, the warmth that it would furnish to the hive might prevent the condensation of moisture, and not allow the honey to become thin or sour, and also keep the air in the hive pure.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### ARE BEES A NUISANCE.

AND SOME OTHER INTERESTING INFORMATION.

**S**EEING so many reports in your valuable paper, I thought I would drop you a line and report my success or failure which ever you think it deserves to be called. Well, on or about the middle of November I put into the cellar 105 colonies, but when I put them in I knew very well that I would lose quite a number as many of them were light, and as I had more than I thought I could conveniently stow away, I did not go to any trouble about fixing and feeding, and I am pretty confident that if I had taken the pains and expense necessary, I could have wintered pretty nearly all. Well, I lost only fifteen from starvation, they did not have a particle of pollen or honey left, last season being poor in this section. I had two swarms issue late in August and one of them went about half a mile before it settled and I thought it had concluded to go. However, I got it and commenced feeding it; the combs were built and it wintered well and came out strong. I have had no dysentery these last two winters; in fact, the bees came out nearly as well on the previous winter as they did this, and the temperature was below freezing point several times for a short period;

this winter it was about 35° and the bees were quiet all winter until those warm days in April, and then I had to put them out for we began in earnest to have the sunshine which both they and I like so well. Now I want to tell you that I did not spread the combs or put any holes through them or take any pollen from them; in fact, I think that if those that died had had a good supply of pollen and honey they would have been all right. Neither did I put any cushions on them, I simply left them sealed up above with lots of vent below, and they were as clean and dry as a new pin with lots of young bees when I put them out, and I find I have drones out already. I don't believe in this pollen theory, I don't think bees will eat too much pollen if they have honey in the hive; all bosh, cold and damp I fear worse than pollen.

I am sorry to have to state that I've got a neighbor who has a great dislike to bees, and he is very ignorant and ugly and dirty. I wanted him to clean up his pig-pen, for it is right against my barn and near my bee-yard and he would not do it and it still is a dirty nuisance. So he has been trying to make out that bees are a nuisance and that they go into his blacksmith shop and sting him, and also that they go into the house and sting his wife; he also tells me that they go about a quarter of a mile farther and sting a little girl so that her mother can't let her out of the house to play, and this selfsame fellow has come into my said bee-yard for water for these seven or eight years, as he has no well of his own, and the Presbyterian Minister and several others are backing him up in it. How the affair will end I can't just now tell, but I have employed counsel in Hamilton to protect my interests, and they tell me that I can keep as many bees as I like on my own premises, and I have nothing to fear. Your remarks on the subject will oblige, in the interests of the bee-keepers of Ontario.

JOSEPH HARRISON.

Southampton, May 20th, 1886.

We are sorry to hear of your loss, fifteen by starvation when the price of two of them would have furnished sufficient stores to have carried them through winter. Your neighbor is evidently laboring under a misapprehension regarding the bees. Many believe that bees will go away from their own apiary to sting people, but according to the experience of our best bee-keepers, such is not the case. We keep hundreds of colonies and have never known them to go even 20 rods to sting people, but we have known them to go into a neighbor's house, attracted there by the smell of sweets, and sting some of the family. It seems to us that your village council should appoint a health inspector,