



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

Vol. II. No. 5. BEETON, ONTARIO, APRIL 28, 1886. WHOLE No. 57

OUR OWN APIARY.

BEES IN GOOD CONDITION.

ON the 19th of April, the weather being propitious we set the bees out of two of our bee-houses. At the Wallwin yard (which is situated about three miles and a half from our home apiary) we had 165 colonies and every one came out alive; in looking them over we found one queenless, which was doubled up with another light one. The colonies throughout are in very fine condition, the hives being dry, with no signs of mould on any of the combs. The temperature in the house was kept from 45° to 50° , seldom over 45° except when the weather became quite warm. There were no signs of dysentery; the bees when set on their summer stands, seemed to mark the location unusually quick, and at once set to work bringing in the pollen.

At the Richardson yard (which is two miles from our home apiary) we had 132 colonies, three of which were found to be dead, having evidently been placed in the bee-house queenless, to this fact at any rate we attribute their loss as the bees had scattered all through the hive, not clustering properly. The temperature here ran up very high just before the bees were set out,—causing them to cluster out on the fronts of the hives and in fact in several cases the bees abandoned their hives and moved into adjoining ones, thus making some colonies so strong that they had to be divided

right away after being set out. This is the first instance we have ever known of bees leaving their hives during their confinement in a bee-house and moving into the neighboring ones. We suppose it was caused by the buzz of the stronger colonies which attracted them and the hives being set closely together made it easy to move from one to another. In two colonies, the queens had not yet been destroyed. It is all right to place hives closely together if the temperature is not allowed to get too high, but when it cannot be controlled, if there should be a space of two or three inches between them it will prevent them uniting one with another. An assistant who has had over fifteen years' experience, said that he had never seen bees set out in finer condition.

CLOSING ENTRANCES IN COOL WEATHER.

For the past two weeks the weather here has been exceptionally fine and it has had a very beneficial effect on our bees; should it continue we may look out for a successful season. We do not remember such weather at this season of the year before. The thermometer has ranged from 60 to 90° , and it is more like June than April. The merest nucleus can carry on brooding. Watch closely, however, and see that the entrances are not left open too wide as a sudden change will chill the brood, (of which there are large quantities in the hives,) tending to discourage the colony. Keep the entrances just wide enough