

result from its use are both straight and of even thickness, as well as being all worker comb, a feature which has a most important bearing on the economic side of bee-keeping. Another point in favor of its use is the great saving of time to the bees, and time in their case means honey. If a strong swarm of bees is provided with a hive containing eight frames filled with comb foundation, it is almost certain that within 24 hours they will be found perfectly elaborated or drawn out into cells, so rapidly do the bees work. If on the other hand they are provided with empty frames or frames containing small "starters" of foundation, it is probable that six or seven days at least will elapse before the combs are completed, and during this time a large number of bees are devoting their time and energy to comb building instead of gathering honey.

In this portion of the Dominion owing to the length and severity of the winters, bees have to be safely housed during at least five months of the year, generally from about November 1st to April 1st. During this period of enforced idleness the bees cluster on and between the combs in a more or less oval mass in close proximity to the honey on which they have to feed. Not only do they occupy every bit of space between the combs, but, in order to make the mass more compact, nearly every cell in the area of comb on which the bees are clustering contains a bee, these bees having entered the cells head first. That they do not remain in the cells all winter is obvious as they must come out to feed, but it is presumed that others take their place. The amount of food consumed during the winter varies considerably with the conditions under which the bees are wintered—the colder their winter quarters are, the more honey they will consume. Twenty-five pounds of honey is considered to be a safe amount to carry any hive through the winter and also to provide for the early spring, when little nectar is available in the flowers. It must not be supposed that the bees are in a torpid state during their period of rest, as, though in a quiescent condition, they are very much alive if disturbed. It is of the greatest importance that bees should winter well, that is to say, with a minimum of loss as regards dead bees. Weak colonies in the spring are scarcely worth keeping as honey producers; it is better to take two or three weak hives and unite them, thus making one profitable colony, rather than to allow each of them to gradually dwindle away until they cease to exist, which is the usual fate of weak colonies. After bees are once housed for the winter the less they are disturbed the better, and while they do not appear to notice ordinary sounds the slightest jarring sensation irritates