

Nova Scotia. East of the Ottawa I think more than 75 per cent. of the colonies were lost. That would mean fifty-three or fifty-four thousand colonies dead, leaving not more than 17,000 that came through the winter, while 50 per cent. lost of the number west of the Ottawa would leave a stock of bees not more than 60,000, giving in all 77,000, where the census of 1901 gave a total of 190,000.

This is a terrible death rate, and at \$2 a colony the loss through last winter's action would not be far from a quarter of a million of dollars for bees alone, to say nothing of the loss of honey thought not having the bees. If the whole 77,000 give off two swarms this season we would still be 69,000 or 70,000 colonies short of what we were in 1900.

These facts will serve to show the loss sustained by the country. They also suggest the advisability of a conference of the keepers for the purpose of studying the causes of the exceptionally high mortality and the means for preventing its recurrence.

Have you any theory to account for the untoward experience of last winter?

I think that the lesson to be learned is that bees must be put in well-ventilated cellars—nineteen years out of twenty we may do very well without cellaring, the twentieth tells the tale of our climate."

Mr. Johnson's suggestion regarding a conference of bee-keepers to discuss the cause and prevention of such losses is an excellent one. The Ontario Association will hold their convention early in November, and we presume that the subject will receive a large place on the program. So far as we can learn, however, of the conditions that brought about the disaster, we believe that bee-keepers had become less careful in their fall preparations,

owing to the number of favorable winters that had gone before, when any dinary preparation and precaution sufficed to bring their bees through to the following spring.

We do not doubt the advantages of a first-class cellar, in such a winter as last, for the majority of bee-keepers. Such men as F. J. Miller, of London, with over 300 colonies, and Wm. McEvoy, Woodburn, with about 200, outdoor winterers, say that the season only served to confirm them in their purpose to continue their present system. Of course, we must remember that there is great difference between the climate of Southern Ontario, and Quebec and Nova Scotia.

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TO CANADIAN BEE-JOURNAL READERS.

The annual convention of the National Bee-Keepers' Association will be held September 27-30, in the auditorium of the Christian Endeavor Hotel, within one hundred feet of the south entrance of the St. Louis World's Fair, Vice-Pres. C. B. Dadant has just returned from the fair, and has secured the best possible for the members.

Special rates:—Send at once 50c. to General Manager N. E. France of Platterville, Wis., to secure charter certificate at above hotel—\$1 a day lodging, or \$2 a day board and lodging. Otherwise, higher rates will be charged. Make it a point to attend the fair the week before or after the convention, and thus continue your board rates. Other hotels near, but higher rates charged. Market street cars west bound in front of Union depot will bring you to above hotel without transfer. Missouri State Bee-Keepers' convention in same hall, September 26.

N. E. FRANCE.

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We sympathize with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sibbald, in the death of their infant girl, who passed away August 17th.