

WINTER LOSSES

From reports received from York and adjoining counties, as might be expected losses are quite heavy. Starvation has been the principal cause of loss and at this date numbers of colonies are very short of stores and no doubt many will yet perish if neglected. Wonderful what extremes of cold and long confinement bees can endure. Have today some colonies in good condition that were outdoors and never had a cleansing flight from November 10th, till April 5th. Stores were first class, if there had been honey dew in the hives there would have been a different story to tell.

PAPER COVERED VERSUS PACKED
HIVES

Last season I was much taken up with Mr. A. C. Miller's "papered" hives and had so much faith in their efficacy that I prepared a couple dozen colonies in manner prescribed by Mr. Miller. Results have been very dissappointing and my ardor in that line is pretty well cooled for the present. Half of them are dead and with the balance the winter has had such a benign influence that they can be quite safely handled without veil or gloves. Colonies in packed hives all right along side the papered ones came through in good condition. Had the experiment been conducted last winter results would likely have been different, as I have for some years wintered three or four single walled hives successfully with only a super filled with chaff on, as their only protection. It takes severe conditions and tests to prove these theories of ours.

HOW THE BEES ADAPT THEMSELVES
TO ALL CLIMATES

Our little friends are peculiar in more than one respect. When it comes to endurance of changes of

climate, it is doubtful if there is any other creature that can compare with *apis mellifica*. Last spring received a number of Italian queens from Texas. Often during our extremely severe winter my mind was on those queens — all wintering outdoors. Was agreeably surprised to find them all alive this spring. More than that they are all in good condition, something, by the way, that can not be said of numbers right around them whose ancestors have been "acclimatized" for many years.

COMMUNICATIONS

Editor Canadian Bee Journal.

Dear Sir,—

Replying to yours of recent date for report from this district, would say I set out my bees to-day and found 17 dead out of 112, the greatest loss I have had in many years in wintering.

My heaviest loss usually is from the time the bees are set out in the Spring until clover honey is on.

This is a clear case of: 'As thou sowest so shalt thou reap'. The colonies had not sufficient stores to carry them through their long confinement of 164 days.

I have gathered reports from many bee-keepers in this district and the mortality among the bees is heavy. Several report all dead and others from 50 to 90 per cent. Many of your readers may ask why did I not set out my bees earlier, the answer is that to-day was the first day in April fit to set out bees: too cold, wet and windy with two or three heavy falls of snow, but prospects are good for clover as the ground has been well covered with the beautiful since the first week in November last until the present time.

W. J. Brown,
April 22nd, 1904. Pendleton, Ont