

A Manitoba Bee-Keeper.

ARMAND, Man., May 31, 1897.

R. F. Holterman, Esq.,

DEAR SIR.—I have not had much experience in bee-keeping, but as you have twice asked for it, I thought I would tell you what I have done.

In the spring of '95 I bought two hives of bees; the first one I had to bring ten miles over a rough road on a warm night. When half way home the frames, which were not properly secured, broke loose, and the division board whipped the frames for the next five miles. Fortunately I had on an empty top box. The queen was not killed and I had about one quarter of the bees left. I took good care of them and had a fair-sized swarm on June 13. Not knowing any better I allowed four swarms to come from this hive. My No. 2 hive I gave plenty of room and got one large swarm.

July 25, extracted 42 lbs.; Aug. 8, 76 lbs.; Aug. 27, 84 lbs.; Sept., 79. Total, 281 lbs.

In September I fixed the bees for winter by leaving on the frames the regular summer quilt and three thicknesses of woollen cloth, and an average of 37 pounds of honey to each hive. On October 30th I put them into the cellar.

May 2nd, 1896—Took bees out of cellar all alive and well; used on an average 14½ lbs. of honey in each hive; lowest, 8 lbs.; highest, 21 lbs.

May 5th, gathering pollen; May 31st, first drones flying; June 13, first swarm.

I tried queen excluders on some of the strongest swarms, which caused a delay of three days in filling the boxes and gave me swarms from swarms. All went well until Sept. 3rd, when we had 3½ degrees of frost, which meant a loss of 10 lbs. of honey to each hive according to the '95 record.

July 9, first extracting. Honey produced in 1896, 1,029 lbs. My bees have now increased to twenty hives, which I put into the cellar the end of October.

April 24, 1897—Took bees out of cellar this afternoon; all alive and in good order.

I use mostly half-sheets of foundation; I have used some whole sheets and like it better; would have all whole sheets when possible.

We are having a long spell of cold weather with considerable frost, so that the bees cannot work.

May 28.—Have just lost one hive by starvation.

Yours truly,

JOHN Q. SUMNER

CLARENCE, Dec. 14th. 1896.

R. F. Holterman, Esq., Brantford, Ont.

DEAR SIR—Enclosed herewith I send you a report of the Russel County Bee Keepers' Association Annual meeting held at Rockland, on Dec. 3rd Inst., as condensed for a local paper from which I clipped it, and made some proof corrections. The balance reported by the Treasurer is \$16.50, and the sum voted for prizes, \$9 00. The resolution re the Adulteration of Honey read as follows:

"That this association protect the interests of Honey Producers by prosecuting any person or persons found manufacturing or offering for sale any adulterated honey in the County of Russel after being warned to desist.

"The Secretary reported having made arrangements with the officers of the Farmers Institute for Mr. Percy H. Selwyn, of the Geological Survey, Ottawa, to give addresses on subjects relating to bee-keeping at their meetings, which was to be held at Rockland the following week."

You may insert the above items if you care to, perhaps on the whole it would be better to. I may say that now the Farmers' Institute Meetings are past and also Mr. Selwyn's addresses, they were very much appreciated by all present, interested in bees, particularly the one in which he discoursed on, "The Preparation of Bees for Winter," which was very instructive.

Yours very truly

G. G. Sherriff

Sec'y R. C. B. K. A.

ROCKLAND.

The annual meeting of the Russell County Bee Keepers' Association held here on Thursday last was rather slimly attended considering the efforts made to advertise it. The unsettled state of the weather and roads perhaps being as much the cause as the apathy of the bee-keeping fraternity itself. All the enrolled members were present with the exception of two who were unavoidably detained. Only the necessary business was carried through at this meeting; the customary papers and addresses being held in reserve for the Farmer's Institute meetings to be held on the 11th and 12th. The treasurer's report was adopted without discussion, a balance being reported on the safe side of the accounts. The officers of last year were re-elected unanimously, and also two additional directors, being: Pres. Jas. P. Gamble, Cumberland; Vice-Pres., Alex. McLaughlin, Cumberland; Directors, W. J. Brown, and D. Brown, Chard; Duncan