

for the weak ones, you must take the chances. At the beginning of early spring see that the tops of the brood nests of your hives are made tight, so as to confine the warm air rising from the cluster of bees.

G. W. DARMASCE.

Christianburg, K'y., U. S.

Keep them warm. Contract the brood chamber. Be sure they have a surplus of food. If the weather is warm enough before the natural pollen appears you might set out on boards or pans fine ground oats for pollen. Set it near the hives, they will soon find it, and it also gives them something to think about besides robbing their neighbor. I would not take brood from one and give to another until the strongest colonies were preparing to swarm. This keeping them all at the same strength from the start is not my plan. In union there is strength.

WILL ELLIS,

St. Davids.

Don't fiddle with your bees until season and weather warrants. Contract entrances. Contract brood chamber with division board to suit cluster, leaving just what combs they can nicely cover, keep these toward side of hive where the strong rays of sun strikes. Pack warmly on top and other side of division board with chaff or sawdust in bags or cushions. This will increase the warmth, saving the waste of animal heat that otherwise would take place in the larger space. Brood rearing will advance more rapidly; as you find the increase demands add more comb, breaking the cappings of the honey on them so the bees can feed freely; this also will serve as a stimulant.

Brantford.

W. J. CRAIG.

Examine the colonies as soon in spring as practicable. Use division boards to crowd the bees on to as few combs as they can conveniently cover. Give more room only as it is required. Now see that the hives are snugly and warmly packed and don't disturb them unless really necessary. As you say they have lots of honey, don't stimulate them otherwise, except by uncapping a comb between first blooms and white clover, so that the larvæ will not die for want of proper nourishment at the right time. If they lack stores at this juncture feed them syrup or honey.

Stratford.

F. A. GEMMILL.

SEE HERE.

P. S.—To the printer's devil of the Canadian Bee Journal: My name is Gemmill, and I was a printer's devil myself. Now I want you to stick the type, and

attend to the punctuation, composition and spelling properly. Some of the articles sent for publication, were simply useless, on account of the wrong words and terms supplied by YOU. I am awful mad, but I'll forgive you if it don't occur again.

F. A. G.

[After reading this our P. D. fled. The sins of the editor were too many for him to hear. The last heard of him, was in Rossland among the miners.—Publisher.]

Under the above condition the only hope is warmth. I should confine the colonies to as few combs as the bees will cover. If possible set the hives in a warm sheltered place. I would in this case face the hives to the East and domicile the bees in the south side of the hive. Contract the entrance to the actual requirements of the colony. Cover the frames with enamel cloth or some other water-proof material, and above this place 4 or 5 inches good warm packing. They will build up faster if the hives are painted a dark color. If not it would pay to tack dark colored enamel cloth over south side and west end of hive in early spring or until bees are uncomfortable from heat. Add frames as fast as needed.

C. W. POSR.

Bees in this condition, if wintered in the cellar, should be packed when placed on summer stands. Bees that have been wintered on summer stands generally are packed or protected in some way and therefore are hardy. The brood chambers should be opened and each colony examined in early spring, as soon as the weather becomes warm enough to do so without chilling the brood. If a good laying queen and plenty of honey is found the colony will need no attention more than keeping it warm till about a month before the honey flow when it may be examined again. If the frames are not pretty well filled with brood and the strength of the colony permits, spread the frames from the centre and put an outside one containing little or no brood between two of the middle ones, which should be pretty well filled with brood and larvae. Space the frames properly and pack again warm and snug. Do not disturb again till 7 or 8 days before the honey flow then see that the frames all contain brood. If not, move the outside ones in again as before. Now with a hive containing little or no honey, at an abundance of bees and brood you are ready for the honey flow. Should it be later in coming, however, than expected, do not neglect to feed for a day or two as a little feed at this time is worth its weight in gold.

Harwood, Ont. GEO. B. McCULLOCH.