

that even under moderately favourable conditions as to location, the honey bee can and does winter successfully in hollow trees, and possibly in other self-chosen abodes.

In this connection the following may be of some interest to the readers of THE OTTAWA NATURALIST.

On the 1st of July, 1897, a strong colony of bees (first swarm) absconded from the apiary of Mr. S. Short, near Rockcliffe, and took possession of a hollow tree some quarter of a mile distant. All efforts of the owner to dislodge them proved futile, as the tree, a giant basswood, is some 70 or 80 feet in height and the cavity in which they had located is within 20 feet of the top. After clearing out the decayed wood they settled down to business in their lofty abode, and it may reasonably be supposed that the winter found them fairly comfortably established, with abundance of honey.

Being much interested in the question as to whether they would survive the intense cold of our climate, I visited the tree early this spring and to my satisfaction I found them apparently as vigorous and strong as ever, judging from the hundreds of bees to be seen passing in and out.

This condition of affairs still exists, and if the cavity is sufficiently large they have doubtless accumulated a large quantity of honey during the past very favourable season, and will therefore be in a better position to withstand another winter.

That many colonies which have escaped from their owners do perish during the winter months seems almost certain, but in most cases probably from causes with which the climate has comparatively little to do, viz.: The abode too small to accommodate both brood and stores in sufficient quantity; small second swarms too weak numerically to gather surplus stores for winter; loss of queens; and possibly ravages of the bee moth grub (*Galleria mellonella*, L.)