

## Wintering Bees.

—ARTHUR STOREY.

Having read Mr. Dunn's article in the February C. B. J., the latter part of which treats on his preparation of 72 colonies for winter; I wish with your permission to say something on this question. I have seventy colonies at an out apiary prepared in a somewhat different manner. It might be of interest to the Bee-Keepers who read the Journal—I know it will be to me—if Mr. Dunn and myself send in a report about the beginning of June giving the success each had in wintering. I will describe how mine are prepared, I made a clamp long enough to hold seven hives. Papered it on sides, bottom, and ends with old newspapers; then put three inch strips on the bottom for the hives to rest on. Packed all below and around the hives with planer shavings. The packing is three inches at the bottom and front and eight at back and top of hives. I put a few strips of lath on top of frames, also new cotton cloth to cover the top of hive; then a piece of old carpet or bagging so that I can lift the shavings up off the cotton and keep it clean. Next I packed four inches or thereabout of shavings, then a thick layer of newspapers; after that I filled the clamp to the top with shavings—about eight inches at the back and ten or a little more at the front. The entrance is left five inches long, half inch deep with a one inch hole at the center of the end of the front of hive. This hole is to allow a free air passage if the bottom entrance gets clogged up with dead bees which often happens. A board is then made large enough to cover both entrances, and lath nailed to three sides of it. This is fastened on the front of clamp with one screw nail so that it can be turned at any time for examination. The board thoroughly excludes the light, and the dead bees fall down between the board and clamp, when they are pushed out by the inmates of the hive, and also allows a free air passage, and keeps wind and snow from blowing directly into the entrance.

I have 58 colonies at another out apiary wintering in cellar, under a dwelling house, which I examined yesterday. The temperature was 42°; bees perfectly

quiet until disturbed with the light. This is the second examination since they were put in November 18th. Very few dead bees on the floor so far. At the home apiary I have 60 colonies in the cellar, where the temperature has been below freezing for several days; the bees are perfectly quiet. I may say that all hives in the cellars have a sawdust cushion on top of frames three inches thick; this seems to retain the heat. The other 15 are outside prepared in similar manner to the 70 colonies at the out apiary, and are wintering well so far, however, the first of June will tell the tale.

Lindsay.

## Notes from the Central Ontario Apiaries.

Extracting the buckwheat honey was left until the last of September in order to get the honey as well cured as possible. The work was all done in a tent 12 x 16 feet, and although the work was done after the flow had ceased, there was not the least commotion or robbing among the bees. I have extracted for several years in a tent at the out apiaries and I like the arrangement better each year. I have not the least hesitation now in removing bees to any locality likely to produce a flow of honey at moderate transportation charges, for I can both do all the work and live in my tent if necessary. After extracting, the top stories were set on 2 x 4 inch scantling and tiered up six in height with a queen excluder underneath, and covered with sun caps and the bees allowed to clean them out.

On the 17th of October we commenced to move the bees home for winter quarters, leaving them away as long as possible to avoid the canning factories and fruit evaporators in the vicinity of the home apiary. The apiary at Presqu'Isle Bay was moved first. One of my neighbour bee keepers owns a large sailing yacht that will carry about seventy-five colonies, and he turned in and helped me get them home. We brought the whole outfit home in two loads and landed them within ten rods of the home apiary, and they were carried on hand-barrows and set on their stands scarcely knowing that they were disturbed. The other apiary near Welter's Bay was brought home in a car and placed on a siding at the corner of the