

# THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

"Don't take off your winter clothing too soon," is an oft-repeated admonition, and a wise one. Don't remove your winter packing too early is a not less important one in bee-keeping, some young bee-keepers, and indeed some of the older who should know better, are far too anxious to see their colonies out in summer dress, courting "spring dwindling," "chilled brood" and other ailments peculiar to the season.

Notwithstanding the long list of good reports last month, later ones assure us that the winter and early spring has not passed away without some very serious losses in many districts. Dysentery seems to have been more than usually prevalent, and especially among bees wintered outdoors, some attribute this trouble to the quantity of "honey dew" among winter stores. While the cold snap which came just as the fruit bloom opened and the bees began to bestir themselves, played havoc among the weaker colonies.

The question presenting itself to many just now is whether the better prices for honey can be maintained when the new crop comes in. Certainly there is an excellent opportunity for making an effort in this direction if bee-keepers will only be unanimous and talk the matter up and work it through their local associations. The poor price difficulty

originated not with the bee-keepers who depend on bee-keeping for a living, but with those who make it a side line and who retail their little in their local market at whatever price they can get for it.

When talking up price it would be well to keep up quality, this after all has much to do with the free sale of the commodity. Unfortunately many of our bee-keeping friends are not aware how very sensitive honey is and how easily it is affected by its surroundings. Keep cans covered and air tight as possible, not only for the sake of cleanliness but to retain the fine aroma of the honey. Much of the distinct flavor of the basswood is lost by the heating and exposure in liquifying.

The fifth edition of the revision of "Langstroth on the Honey Bee," by Charles and C. P. Dadant is just out. This work has had the most worldwide sale of any book on bee culture, having been printed simultaneously in English, French and Russian. The work of Langstroth is a classic, and the world owes to him most of the progress that has been made in bee-culture in the past 50 years, as the invention of the movable frame hive was the first active step towards comprehensive and successful bee-culture, Mr. Langstroth was also an observing naturalist, and many of his remarks on the habit of the bee have been original, though they are now so thoroughly known that they seem to have ever been a part of the public knowledge. The revisors of Langstroth are practical bee men, honey producers on a large scale, and all their ideas are stamped with the evidence of practicability. This work well repays the beginner who buys it for information, as well as the specialist who wants to add to his apian library.