

and feed them very rapidly until they have sufficient stores.

SAWDUST PACKING MUST BE DRY.

A. D. D. WOOD.—I have just completed a cellar for wintering my bees, and I would like you to tell me if it is material whether the sawdust is entirely dry or not. I am anxious to know soon.

Rives, Jackson Co., Mich., Oct. 1st, 1885.

You do not say whether you mean the sawdust overhead or at the sides. Cellars are usually built of stone or brick and then the sawdust placed overhead to prevent frost from getting in. It is decidedly better to have the sawdust dry, but it may be dried by putting a stove in the room and keeping the place very hot for a few days. Dampness from the bottom of the cellar, or even water standing in the bottom or running through will not prevent you from wintering well in the cellar, all conditions being right. One thing you want to be very careful about, that is, to keep your bees well closed up so they will cover all the combs. Outside combs (not occupied with bees), containing unsealed stores are liable to become sour and unfit for use.

BEE LORE.

That Cooper & Son's grocery is a very attractive place has long been known. But the culmination, the acme, the very apex of attractiveness seems to have been reached one day last week. A looker-out for bargains, who is a member of the Bee family, waltzed into Cooper's store, and being in the honey business himself, he sampled some of Cooper's sweet juice as it oozed from some faulty tins, and behold it was good. Trusting not his own judgment, Mr. Bee returned to the family residence and brought the chief housekeeper and a few others to test the honey dripping from the tins in Cooper's store. And they all of one accord pronounced it good, very good, a very ambrosial nectar, food fit for the gods. One or two of the testers were immediately despatched to bring all the brothers and sisters and cousins and uncles and aunts of the Bee family. They came, they filed into the store in dozens, by the score, by the hundred, by the—suffice it to say they took possession of the premises. The proprietors were at a loss whether to shout murder or fire. Some one proposed to ring the fire bell. The bees proceeded to business and loaded up with honey at

less than first cost. Neighbour Rotz was called in, a smudge fire was made to produce smoke and with the aid of the black vapor and sundry deployments and flank movements peculiar to military men, the Messrs. Cooper caused the marauders to retreat, and the proprietors once more got possession of their premises.—*From Huron News-Record.*

A correspondent to the *Lewiston Journal* says:—"Dea. Osgood Perry, of Norway, has probably the oldest colony of bees in Maine. They were purchased by Mr. Perry in the season of 1844. As to their age at time of purchase he is not sure, but thinks it probable they were a swarm of the previous season, making the age of the colony 42 years this season. They have been in the same hive and occupied the same stand summer and winter for 41 years, all the time in good condition, having this season sent out several swarms. The hive is constructed of four boards set on end with a top board inserted."—And the editor remarks:—"Well, Friend Perry, you have beat the crowd. This is a remarkable instance of bee longevity as we should say. This is the only instance we have ever heard of, of a swarm of bees and their descendants occupying the same hive for more than half that number of consecutive years. I think we had an instance given in the *Journal* some time ago of a hive being occupied over twenty years in unbroken line by same colony. The inference, to those not acquainted with the natural history of the bee, would be that there must be some pretty old bees in that hive. But the fact is if Deacon Perry purchased that hive, a year after the swarm was placed in it, he didn't come into possession of a single bee that was originally put into it. When it is considered that in hardly any case does a worker bee live more than six or seven months, and that during the cold season, it will be seen that the occupancy of this hive has been by lineal descent from year to year, and in some seasons when swarming freely the entire occupants may have been changed several times during the summer. So, strictly speaking, a swarm of bees can never be old in that sense of the term. A queen may live to be four or five years old, but as the old queen always leads out the swarm, she is changed every time the hive sends out a swarm. But as we have said, it is an interesting case and one that don't often occur.

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