

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS.

ICE IN HIVES, MOVING BEES IN WINTER, ETC.

JOSEPH SCHARBONNEAU, PLANTAGENET, ONT.—

In connection with my report, on page 72 of JOURNAL for April 29th, I would like to know the cause of the bees all dying off in that way?

You might as well or better have left them on their summer stands without any protection whatever. A bee-house in this locality with only one foot of sawdust packing in part, and pea straw in the balance, would be like a cold cellar, one of the best possible places to kill bees, as a proof of which the moisture condensed in the form of ice is sufficient. Bees to winter safely in a repository, must have a frost proof one, one that will not allow the temperature to fall below 40°.

The cause of the ice in the hives?

Much of the moisture escaping from the cluster becomes condensed on the combs, and if it is cold enough to cause ice to accumulate inside the hive it is worse than their remaining out on their summer stands.

Did it hurt to move them as I did?

No. Your bees would in all probability have died any way. You could have packed your bees on their summer stands and have brought them through safely. A cave in the ground is far superior to a bee-house unless the latter is prepared with great care.

Will the bee-house be better for another year, by filling it with sawdust all around, and should I put a floor in it?

A floor is not necessary to the safe wintering of bees, but the sawdust should be more than one foot thick. Some of our bee-houses have twenty-six-inch walls.

HONEY AND HIVES.

HOW SWEETNESS MAY BE MADE, PRESERVED AND SOLD.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.)

A.—To what age do bees live? A.—Sixty to 90 days in the working season. I have had bees in winter quarters for six months and seventeen days and come out all right. Keep your hives closed up in cold weather, and for several

days after setting out in the spring open only for a couple of hours in the middle of the day when very warm. If you get stung, just wipe off the bladder of poison with your hand; the sting will follow, and you will experience no bad effects; if you do, just bathe in cold water. Dress in duck or any other goods without a nap on it. Singe the hair off your hands so the bees will not get their feet tangled in it; make no false motions; use a straw hat, and if you have long whiskers wet them; if you have frizzy hair wet it. If you mash a bee go at once and wash the poison off.

Q.—Would you advise wearing veils? A.—Yes, for new beginners, if they are nervous.

Q.—Do you make any size section boxes? A.—Yes; any size and 25,000 per day. If you want to make money use thin ones; to lose money use thick ones.

The speaker thanked the audience for their attention, and said it had been a great pleasure to him to be present.

Mr. D. A. Jones explained why bees build the comb the way they do in the hive.

Mr. Aches said; "Build up your swarms as large as possible."

Mr. McNaughton said that 46 years ago he found a bee tree, cut it down, and out the place where the swarm was, and ever since that time had been a bee-keeper. He uses deep hives—18x15x12 inches, and only lost one swarm out of 25 last year, and that was because of his own neglect. He had five shallow hives and had lost four swarms out of five.

Mr. O'Neil said he had no trouble keeping bees—the trouble for him was to sell the honey.

On motion, Mr. Jones, of Beeton, was tendered a hearty vote of thanks for his presence and assistance, and for the charts presented the association. A vote of thanks was also tendered the Town Council for the use of the hall, lights, etc., and to Mr. G. B. Jones for his presence and counsel.

On motion of Vice-President Campbell, seconded by Mr. McNaughton, it was decided to have a meeting in Ailsa Craig about the middle of May. The retiring Secretary was tendered a vote of thanks for his services, after which the convention adjourned.