

only a beginner in bee culture, beginning 1883 with two swarms, 1884 with six, and now have twenty-five wintered so far, but two lost their queens during winter, and I may be compelled to unite them with other swarms, as the weather is still cold, and no natural pollen has appeared yet. I got four hundred pounds of comb honey in 1884, increased by natural swarming. Had last swarm on Sept. 6th, which swarm is amongst my best to-day. Our first pollen comes from the tag alder, and skunk cabbage, which are very early; then comes willow, maple, dandelion. We get honey from apple, and wild fruit bloom, red raspberry, white clover, basswood, buckwheat, then myriads of fall bloom, including goldenrod. The purple fire weed is springing up, as timber is being cut off, and seems to be a sure producer of honey, annually, and its bloom is of very long duration. So you see we have plenty of sources of supplying our bees, our greatest drawback some seasons is rough weather preventing them from getting out to gather the honey awaiting them.

Weedville, Elk Co., Pa., April, 1885.

ABEL GRESH.

P.S.—I forgot to say that I winter on summer stands, packed all around with chaff, with about five inches of chaff on top. I crowd the bees in as small a place as they will comfortably fill, crowd up a division board to the combs, and fill the space behind division boards with chaff. I pay no attention to pollen in the hive, but I find that those fed some granulated sugar in the Fall, wintered best, and spotted the snow least on their first flight in Spring, and my limited experience leads me to believe that extra large swarms have no advantage in wintering. I am also led to believe that bees winter better on the Gallup frames, than on the Langstroth frames.

ABEL GRESH.

What you call purple fire-weed is, we think, the same kind of weed which springs up here wherever fire runs through the timber. The botanical name of which is *Epilobium Augustifolium*. It produces very large quantities of honey, and in northern localities it just fills the gap between basswood and Fall flowers. Your experience in wintering agrees with that of many others.

We shall thank our friends for the names as all persons in their neighborhood who keep bees that we may send them sample copies of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### LOSSES REPORTED IN WINTERING BEES IN AND ABOUT TRENTON, ONT.

A. W. & D. J. HAWLEY had 120 and lost 90; Enoch Harrington had 55 and lost 49; C. W. Bonter had 40 and lost 40; A. Pierson had 20 and lost 20; and of those saved perhaps 20 to 25 per cent may yet be lost by spring dwindling. There are many other losses, the particulars of which are not yet reported, in many cases. The stores of honey were ample; various causes are given for the heavy losses, those have succeeded best who, in putting their bees into the cellar elevated them two or three feet from the bottom of the cellar, and removed the *bottom board* from the hives whereby all dead bees would fall to the ground, and thus prevent the *foul gasses* from arising in the hive that would otherwise arise if the bees died in the hive, and were allowed to become decomposed, which as a matter of course must produce disease. Many of the colonies that have died are reported to have plenty of honey, while some were starved to death. Those who extracted very close, expecting that winter stores would be made from buckwheat, in most cases came short.

The CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL has been favorably received by our bee-keepers, and I hope we shall be able to make arrangements with the publishers whereby we may furnish each of our forty members with a copy of the JOURNAL, the same as we do the *American Bee Journal* this year. The editor of the *American Bee Journal* had very little to do to find fault with the name of the C.B.J. The name is appropriate and the publishers in selecting that name, did just what they had a legal right to do, and the objection Mr. N. raised was certainly far-fetched.

J. H. PECK.

Trenton, Ont.

We are very sorry to hear of the severe loss of bees in your section of the country. But they have been no greater than in many other parts from which we have received reports. We have now on our desk letters stating that three-fourths of the bees in many of the States have died, and we do not think that Canada has suffered more than the United States, probably not as much. The severe losses that have been sustained should stimulate those who have suffered to act upon the advice of those who have been successful. Too many successful years of prosperity are apt to make us careless.