instructions in the art of producing comb honey, as you are sadly in need of the information. He tells you "we have a prophet down in Tennessee who advises us six months in advance just what quantities of honey we may expect." Yes, that is what I have done and can do, let me be prophetic or anti-prophetic. I will keep you Canadians posted in regard to the amount of honey you may expect to gather, and I hope Mr. Johnston will keep you posted on the art of producing it.

The poplars are just beginning to bloom here, and if the weather permits our bees to get out and work, they will roll in plenty of honey. It lasts about three weeks, but produces great quantities of honey. If it bloomed in June, July or August, and was as productive as it is now, the bees would store enormous quantities from it. As a general thing, however, it rains whilst it is in bloom fully one-half the time; still I have known seventy-five pounds of honey to be taken two years in succession.

It has been raining for the last two or three days, but has now cleared off, leaving some snow on the mountains; our bees have worked well to-day all the same.

SAM. WILSON.

Cosby, Tenn., U.S., May, 1893.

For THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

PREPARING BEES FOR WINTER, AND SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN WINTERING.

FALL PREPARATION.

1. Must have a good queen,—this requires inspection. Without a queen the colony will be dead before spring.

2. Must have plenty of honey, say thirty pounds, and that must be of good quality. No honey dew, or glucose, or thin, watery honey will do for winter. Bad honey causes dysentery.

3. Must have a fair supply of bees. A small colony cannot keep up a sufficient heat, and before spring a small colony will be dead.

4. To winter well they must not have any spare room above, such as a case of sections; if they have, they are apt to scatter and cannot keep up sufficient heat.

5. In packing, a coarse porous cloth, a piece of a grain bag, or something similar, should be laid over the frames, and a chaff cushion six inches thick on top of the cloth. This will enable us to remove the cushion without disturbing the bees, and a dry one can be put on if there is any dampness. I have found oat chaff very good, but timothy chaff is better, generally keeping dry all winter. Do not use sawdust, as it is apt to get very wet.

Put up in this shape, bees will generally come through winter on their summer stands without any other packing, being watchful not to let the doorway get frozen solid, as that would smother them.

I am not sure if they would be any safer if hives were put close together and packed with twelve inches of straw. As this does not keep out the frost they are liable either way to be ruined if a long spell of hard weather occurs. Another difficulty that occurs in both cases is that of mice getting in and cutting away a large amount of comb, spoiling three or four frames, making a nest, and leaving a very filthy mess to be cleaned out in the spring. To prevent this, have the hives well made and tight, and make the doorway so narrow that no mouse can get through.

Those having cellars under their houses would find it safer to place their bees in them before very severe weather comes on; but the cellar must be dry, and the temperature at about 45° F. In this case they will be safe in severe winters like the last one; but in mild winters they would lose the chance of having a fly out on any warm day that might come. This is the worst disadvantage of cellar wintering.

In placing them in a cellar they should be raised at least one foot from the floor and kept the same distance from the walls; the room must be kept perfectly dark, no noise be allowed to disturb them, and the air kept sweet. If the weather gets warm, then trouble commences; the temperature must be kept below 50°,—this may be done