

by J. K. Darling, and resolved, That we continue in affiliation with the North American Bee-keepers' Association.

QUESTION DRAWER.

'What is the best time to unpack bees wintered outside?'—J. B. Hall.

F. A. Gemmell.—About 1st June, or just before the swarming fever.

P. Bussey.—Leaves packing on till they hang out; then takes the packing off down even with the top of the brood-nest.

R. McKnight.—The question admitted of two answers. If in single clamps, not at all, if it is not inconvenient to work with them. If packed in clamps, six or eight or more together, whenever it was found necessary to separate the clustered hives to prevent confusion. He had 14 individual cases, and he keeps the bees packed in them until he wants to get at the hives readily for manipulation. He always leaves them packed till the last minute. Considered the individual case best.

Wm. McEvoy.—Packs on summer stand in single clamps.

A. W. Humphries.—Related the case of a friend who never unpacked his bees at all, and who always had good success. He kept them in a bee-shed facing the east, in three tiers, separated by divisions in the front, and he manipulated them from the back of hive. In 1889 he had 24 colonies, increased to 36, and took 500 lbs. comb and 1,100 lbs. extracted honey. In 1890, which was not so good a season, he had 35 increased to 37, and took 250 lbs. comb and 1,100 lbs. extracted. As his colonies increased he extended his shed.

P. Bussey.—The hives should never be more than four inches from the ground in the honey season.

THE BEST PACKING.

Some one then asked what was the best packing.

S. Corneil.—In the language of a Scotch bee-keeper in the *British Bee Journal*, "the best packing for bees is bees"—when the hive gets full, then unpack.

W. A. Chrysler.—In Kent county chaff-packed hives were considered the best—the nights were cool and the days raw and windy in spring and early summer. They kept the covering over the top till June 10th or 15th.

D. Anguish.—Used chaff-packed hives right through the summer, with four inches of packing.

S. Corneil.—Considered it best to protect by means of permanent packed walls, which will not make the hives too wildy. Believed he had the warmest hives in Ontario. They were packed with cork-dust, were not more than 17 inches square outside, and when filled with combs did not weigh more than 22 or 23 lbs. The outside walls were of $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. lumber; then came $1\frac{1}{2}$ -in. cork dust, then 3-ply of carpet felt paper, and then the inner wall of $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch picture backing. The entire wall was but $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. He was willing to test them against any known hive for heat-retaining qualities.

J. Myers.—Used flax chaff for packing, but it drew dampness.

R. McKnight.—Was opposed to chaff packing. Believed cork dust the best; and he believed also that he was the first in the world to recommend it. Chaff draws damp, and it becomes an absorbent when used over the frame. An absorbent was not what was wanted, but something that would transmit moisture. Cork was always dry. Dry leaves were better than chaff, but the cheapest was sawdust, taken from thoroughly dried lumber, such as is usually ripped up in planing mills.

D. Chalmers.—Wintered in three different ways—in house, large clamp and in individual clamp on summer stands—preferred the latter. He was trying dry wood ashes as a packing, and hoped it would turn out well.

S. Corneil.—If Mr. Chalmers would look in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, he would find that dry ashes was one of the very good non-conductors, and will retain heat.

J. Myers.—Had tried cork dust and found it good.

S. Corneil.—The objection to cork dust was the difficulty of obtaining it. He had obtained 500 lbs. in Rochester, which cost him 5c. per pound and the freight. If there was likely to be enough demand for it, a firm in Toronto had said they would put in a machine for grinding it.

Mr. Pringle.—With the exception of cork dust, which was the best, he has found that dry fine sawdust was the best available packing.