

THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

Devoted to the Interests of Bee-keepers

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

After a poor season, such as we have just had, there is a temptation to beginners and smaller bee-keepers to neglect their bees, "because they have not paid their way." This is surely a mistake, besides the cruelty of it. No enterprise ever succeeded by neglecting it in times of adversity. The good season will surely come, and it always pays to prepare for it. In districts where there is little or no fall flow, feeding will require to be done. Let it be done early and liberally, and let the colonies be prepared as carefully for the winter as if they had averaged 100 pounds surplus. If this is not done we must expect a heavy death-rate next spring.

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Bees dying in June. Friend Byer mentions his somewhat similar experience to that of Mr. Smith and Mr. Taylor in our last issue. The poison theory is not altogether satisfactory, although it might be possible. Some one calling at our office a short time ago—think it was Mr. John Clarke of Onondaga—told of his bees acting and dying off in this way when gathering honey-dew heavily. They seemed to sicken and die, as if poisoned. How does this fit in in these other instances?

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Ontario Department of Agriculture
August crop bulletin reports the fol-

lowing re bees and honey:

The season has been rather a poor one for the apiary. Swarming was uneven, and, on the whole, unsatisfactory. Clover was a disappointment; basswood was better, but only fair; buckwheat promises well. The weather was too wet for best results at the gathering time, and it is estimated that the average yield per colony will be between 35 and 40 pounds. Bees are otherwise in a thrifty condition.

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So far as we can learn, the arrangement of prices suggested by the Honey Crop committee, is satisfactory, and is being fairly generally realized.

There was a slight error in the C.B.J. report last month, where it reads: "When honey is sold direct to the wholesale grocer in packages suitable to their trade, a difference of 1c per lb extra should be made." This should be: "When honey is sold to the retail grocer." The idea of the committee was to distinguish between the wholesale dealer who handles honey in large bulk quantities, and sells again to the retailer. This is only right and fair, as these men cannot afford to work for nothing, they simply will not do it. They carry heavy stocks, their money is invested, and they run risks of leakages, accidents, and the fluctuations of the market. Besides, the retailer often demands smaller packages to suit his trade, which necessarily increases the cost to the producer.

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The bee season in Bruce county has not been any better than in other parts of Ontario, twenty and twenty-five pounds to the colony seems to be about the average.

Among the bee-keeping friends who have met on our ramble would mention Mr. A. E. Jones, of Queenhill, who has upward of one hundred colonies of Jones hives and managed exclusively for extracted honey. Mr. Jones, though

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