

rience; for I never had bees come out better than they did. For two or three years after that I wintered them in the same room, up stairs, and never lost a hive.

After that I had to move about fifteen miles away, and my bees increased to thirty-two that season, and I tried to winter them on their summer stands. I had to move them again about two miles in the spring. The 17th of March was a fine warm day, and I thought it a good time to move the bees. I got them well on to the sleigh, let them out, gave them a good cleaning fly, after which they returned to their hives all right. The weather turned very cold, however, on the 20th, the mercury dropped to ten below zero, and I lost all but one, which happened to occupy the only double-walled hive I had.

Now, for the next trial. Having one left, I bought three more that spring and increased to seven. That season I fixed a place to winter them in a cellar which I had at the cow stable, about ten feet square, and perfectly dark. Here I wintered them for several years with much success, but I found the mercury would go down too low in very cold weather.

About eight years ago I moved from Aurora to Clarksburg, where I now reside. The first winter here I had no place to put my bees, so I tried wintering them on their summer stands. I made boxes to put over each hive, filled in with sawdust. It was a mild winter, and they came out very well; but I had a few losses with some of my hives which were weak in bees. There was plenty of honey in parts of the hive; but owing to the fact that they were too weak to keep up the necessary heat in the hive they could not get at it.

The next summer I built myself a bee-house, 14x18, with fourteen inches of shavings packed in all around up to the doorway, with two feet of the same on top. I had it lathed and plastered inside, with ventilation above and below, giving space for about one hundred and twenty hives. When winter sets in I take the tops all off, and give all the ventilation I can at the entrance. In March I find them getting restless, I open the two doors at night, before going to bed, and shut them again in the morning, before day light. This keeps them tolerably quiet until the weather gets warm. I have them as long as I dare, for if they get too warm they will swarm out, making trouble and loss. I find the best time to set them out on their stands is in the evening, when they will not fly. The best plan is to set them out some fine day about the last of March or first of April. Let them have a good cleansing fly; and, as soon as the weather turns cold, put them back, and they will be quiet for a month or more. Under these circumstances the queens will lay very fast, and your bees will increase rapidly. Then hive them until the soft maples are in bloom, or the willows or swamp-elms. These are the first trees to yield honey, in this part of the country, that will prevent spring decrease to any great extent.

These are my experiments, so far as I have yet tried; and I consider the last the easiest, the cheapest and the best.

Now, Mr. Editor, I will give you a recital of two more experiments of which, however, I was only a witness:—A neighbor of mine had

occasion to go to Kansas to spend the winter, leaving about twenty hives. He was anxious to have them winter well; and, in order to feel comfortable about them whilst away, he set to work and made a bin about thirty feet long, facing the east. On the front of this he put about 6 inches of sawdust, put some boards over it, and then placed his bees all in a row, close together. An entrance was made for them. He then filled it all around with about twelve inches of sawdust, and covered it with boards for a roof, to keep out the rain and snow. When he returned on the 1st April, the first thing to attend to was his bees; and, to his sorrow, they were nearly all dead; so nearly so, that on the 1st day of May he hadn't a live bee on his farm. I went to see them, and found them all over the hive, sticking to the combs here and there, and to the walls of the hive. They didn't appear to have clustered, as bees generally do in the winter. They had been kept too warm and had not air enough.

The next case was that of a man who got it into his head that wintering under ground would be a good plan. So he dug a trench about two feet deep, put down some cross pieces to rest boards upon; and, to keep them dry, he put the bees in when the winter set in and covered them with straw and dirt to the depth of about eight inches. In the spring, when he went to examine them, he found that mice had got in and destroyed them all.

Now, Mr. Editor, you and the public have my fifty years' experience in bee wintering; and with my compliments.

I am yours, etc.,

G. L. PEARSON.

Clarksburg, Aug. 2, 1892.

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