

## THE CANADIAN HONEY PRODUCER.

Vol. 1. June, 1887. No. 4.

A season such as the present, brings out prominently the advantages of comfortable quarters and packing for bees.

The changeable temperature combined with strong winds and sunshine have made sad havoc with colonies, which in March promised to be in good condition for the honey flow. The advantages of packing are not only to enable the colony to retain the heat developed, which is no mean factor in successful springing, but they are not so readily induced by the warmth of the sun to leave the hive when the day is otherwise chilly and unfavorable. The colonies which have suffered most are those which have been improperly wintered, having their vitality exhausted, and are unable to resist adversities. Of these those which have been brought earliest from winter repositories are in the worst condition.

Bees so improperly wintered and set out early have not done well. During May however the weather has been very favorable; bees have built up remarkably well; honey and pollen have been abundant and many bee-keepers report prospects of swarming in the immediate future. One bee-keeper on the 10th of May had a colony gain six lbs. Many colonies will, providing the weather remains favorable, store considerable from apple blossom. Many find it an advantage to prevent swarming as long as possible, then when the swarm has issued to place the old hive on a new stand and place the new hive and swarm on the old stand, this increases the working force at the expense of the parent colony which latter generally for the time being becomes so depopulated that it does not cast a second swarm and the yield

of honey is increased in the new swarm.

As the extracting season approaches it will not be out of order to place before bee-keepers the evils of extracting honey before ripe. The temptation to the beginner is great to do this; he does not see the disadvantages and the difference between capped and uncapped honey. He does not know of the injury which has been done, and hinderance to the development of the honey market, but only of the large quantity of honey secured. There is no doubt that when such inferior honey has been tasted by a family for the first time and they have been strangers to honey heretofore, they decide that honey is after all not so delicious and we cannot be surprised that their explorations in this direction cease, nor do they find comb honey so vastly superior to extracted.

Generally Canadian and American bee-keepers have ceased taking honey from the body of the hive alone. The advantages of the tiering up system are very manifest. When extracting from the body of the hive alone, the chamber becomes overcrowded if honey is allowed to ripen, then at an extracting the honey has to be taken out so closely that should the flow cease directly after, the bees if not left in a starving condition are at least in a condition totally unfit for winter without feeding which latter has always to be accompanied with loss. In the tiering up system, the brood chamber during fruit bloom should be watched and freed from too much honey, and ample room given to the queen for laying. If upper stories are put upon the hives, care should be taken that any honey stored be extracted before clover yields freely as negligence in this often leads to the deterioration of the entire first extraction.

Many beginners may ask when should honey be ready to extract? In reply to this we may say when capped and sometimes before. We will suppose a case. Honey has been coming in and it has been ripened as brought in. In such a case the cells partially