

up to former years, of which we are very glad. The majority of those from whom reports have come give "starvation" as the reason for the loss. The weather thus far has been anything but favorable for those already placed on their summer stands. We have not yet taken our bees out of their winter quarters.

Sheriff Clarke, of Port Arthur, who died a short time since, was a brother of the poet-laureate of the bee-world, Rev. Wm. F. Clarke, of Guelph. We extend our sympathies.

We regret to learn that our friend, Mr. Corneil has been quite a heavy loser during the past winter; his absence at the Indian and Colonial prevented his putting his bees into a condition that would ensure the success he usually has.

In an article in the *Apiculturist* describing the different styles of hives he has used, Rev. W. F. Clarke winds up as follows:

"The hive I want. Perhaps my hive ideal is utopian, but such as it is, here it is. (1) One that I can make myself, and I am not by any means a "boss" mechanic. (2) One in which it is necessary to disturb the brood nest little or none. (3) One light to handle. (4) One large enough to give off rousing big swarms, and yet not so large as to store a needless quantity of winter supplies. (5) One in which a colony must store surplus honey when it is to be had in the fields. (6) One equally good for summer and winter. (7) One requiring the least possible attention at the change of seasons."

The new "Combination" hive fills the bill just about as completely as any hive we have yet come across.

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For the Canadian Bee Journal.

**Spring Management and Making Ready for the Honey Harvest.**

**H**IS is the 26th of April and my bees are two-thirds of them in the cellar yet. The spring here is decidedly backward. We have had very few fine days so far, and as for the proverbial "April showers" we have had none at all. There has been one rain in April, but none of the warm growing April

showers. I notice in C. B. J. that natural pollen was carried in by the bees in several places in western Ontario on the 10th inst, but I have seen none at all here yet. The 10th was certainly fine and I carried out a few colonies that day, but there has been little good weather since.

The readers of the JOURNAL know I presume by this time that I am not in favor of hurrying bees out of winter quarters in the spring. If they are in good health and have plenty of stores they are better in till the weather gets warm and there is something in the fields for them to gather. If they are diseased or short of stores better put them out when they can fly safely, and then after supplying them with stores pack them up warm.

My bees as far as I know at present have wintered well. A few colonies were slightly affected by the bee-diarrhoea but not seriously. Of the thirty to forty colonies already carried out three-fourths are heavy with honey, having consumed but little in winter quarters. Some large colonies evidently did not use more than three or four pounds each from the time they were put in in November till brooding commenced this spring.

There has been considerable loss in this section—several having lost all or nearly all they had. There has been but little loss, however, among the few bee-keepers in Lennox and Addington who are pretty well posted in the business. The fact will pretty soon be understood that incompetent and bungling bee-keeping *does not pay*.

Now, having gotten our bees out of winter quarters how shall we manage them. This is the important question especially to the inexperienced. And the old and wise heads will please remember I am not writing for them. The CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL is no doubt continually, especially at this season, receiving fresh additions to its readers, many of them beginners. These seek practical and elementary instruction, and it is for these principally that I write this article by request.

As soon as possible after the bees have had their first flight, remove the dead bees and debris from the bottom board, take out more or less of the empty frames, leaving those containing honey, place them so close together that there may be just room enough for a bee to pass freely between them, put in your division board and packing, or cushions, and be sure to put sufficient of these on top over the brood to prevent the escape of the heat. The better way is to have "skeletons" or rough boxes with entrances and without top and bottom to set right.