

allow bees to take chances on summer stands without packing than put them in such places. The results are rarely satisfactory, reasons will be given at a later date.

OUTSIDE.

Unless a good cellar or its equivalent can be secured bees better be left outside. There are various methods of preparation. The chaff hive is probably sufficient protection for the southern and western portion of Ontario. The price is rather against extensive use of this hive yet much can be said in its favor, when either through carelessness or lack of time the bees are liable not to be attended to before cold weather sets in. This is unfortunately too often the state of affairs.

I wintered for years in rough and inexpensive clamps made either from rough boxes with entrances cut through their sides or in cases made. The largest I had was nine hives in a clamp. The bottom, the sides, front and back each one, and the cover two these pieces hooked together. An entrance was cut in the front piece, the hives stood on the two pieces allowing three or four inches of packing below. The hives when in, almost touched one another. A bride was put on the front board to keep the entrance to the hive free from packing. Six to eight inches of packing was put between hives and clamps. Lids removed from the hives, one corner of the propolized cloth folded over and a fresh cloth put over that corner, old flannel is the best. Pack the bees before cold nights, set in but let the top packing be light during October. There should be room for ten inches of packing on top. I like saw dust at the sides the mice rarely trouble it and chaff on the top. Keep the clamp free from the ground so no dampness can reach the bees from below. But I have not described how the hives get into the clamps. I gradually move the hives together a few feet each day, until I have close together and in a row enough to fill a clamp, when the clamp is moved under the hives and the bees packed as described. If bees are moved backward they can be moved farther at a time than if moved sideways or forward. The idea is the bees shall be able to find their hives when they return from the field. Tar paper fastened on a clamp roof will make it very water tight which is important.

BEES ROBBING.

Sometimes a Blessing In Disguise.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

The honey season closed very abrupt and early with us, consequently robbing is the order of the day when extracting is attempted. The wise bee-keeper will not provoke robbing at such a time, but will wisely wait a while and give his bees a chance to recover from the shock caused by the sudden termination of the honey flow. I have always had a wholesome dread of robber bees, and have been careful never to let them get much of a start. I do not know anything more harassing, than to have your bees on the rob. Lik. A. I. Root in the A. B. C. of bee culture one wishes for night to come.

Several ways have been suggested to stop robbing, the plan I have found most effectual is to cover the hive being robbed with some porous material, cheap factory cotton I have found to be the best. Place a piece of stick up against the front of the hive if necessary to keep the covering from getting too close and obstructing the circulation of air, and then remove as soon as the necessity for it no longer exists. A colony of bees when not disturbed during a dearth of honey will with few exceptions defend themselves. I refer to colonies in a normal condition, i.e. one that is not hopelessly queenless is in a healthy thriving state. It has been my experience with the Italians that when a colony fails to defend itself, that nine times out of ten they have no queen, and nothing to rear a queen from. Now robber bees soon gain an entrance to such, and once obtained it is not hard to predict the end. It is no use protecting such colonies until they can be disposed of in some way. The plan I adopt is to shake off the bees in a box, and keep the frames of honey until required unless it is all this season's honey, when it can be extracted and empty frames used another year. The bees are of no use as they will be too old to live over winter, and it will be too late to gather honey unless plenty of fall bloom. It is in the locating of queenless colonies that I find robber bees a blessing in disguise. If, as is frequently the case in a large apiary, some colonies are hopelessly queenless, it is better to know it before attempting to winter such. The robber bees will locate and the apiarist can dispose of them. I speak in reference to Italians. With blacks, which are poor defenders of their homes, it may not apply. If a colony is being robbed, and has both queen and brood, make sure the robbers have no access except by the entrance, contract this to bee

"You have the tooth-ache, dear. That's too bad. What caused it?"

"I think," answered the the Philadelphia maiden, "that it came from leaving my gums at home when I went down town."

—The Review.