

put into winter quarters. It weighed sixty-six pounds without the lid (Jones S.W. hive) the others weighed from fifty-eight to seventy-five pounds according to strength. It appears to me that the color of a hive has something to do with the bees wintering well. I have some dark slate colored hives and some brown painted ones. The ones wintered in the slate colored ones would always come out the worst, while the brown painted hives always give the *very best results* in wintering. This I have noticed for three years in succession. I do not say that the color of the hives affects the bees while in the cellar, but it might affect them while remaining out late in the fall. As I said before there was plenty of snow in the bush, and even in the fields, still the bees came in with pollen and honey. They must have got the pollen from the black alder, as no other trees had budded out. The honey I believe was gathered from the sugar maple, of which they brought in quite a quantity. Since then the willows, poplars, elm and soft maple are in bloom, also quite a number of spring flowers are in bloom and on which the bees seem to be doing very well. Every night before bed time I pay them a visit to contract the entrance if needed, but the lovely hum in the hives at this time indicates that they do not. Of the fifteen stocks I have to start with this season six are very strong, seven medium and two on the weak side. By all appearances there might be a good honey year again and bee-keepers ought to bethink themselves how to obtain a fair price for their honey. To be able to make a somewhat fair estimate of this year's honey crop it is to some extent essential to take into account the stocks on hand, or in other words, the forces that gather the honey. It would, therefore, be of interest to all if every bee-keeper would report through the C.B.J. the losses and stocks on hand, a fair estimate could then be formed, not only of the probable price of honey, but of the price of colonies for sale, but from the larger bee-keepers we very seldom hear any report, still there is a complaint that smaller bee-keepers spoil the market, can it be otherwise? The smaller bee-keepers not knowing the probable stocks on hand, are constantly afraid of the larger, and to clear the market and try to sell as quickly as possible, not always obtaining the best price. Some are prompted by other motives to slaughter their honey as there is the "liking of strong drinks." Strong drinks they must have—the honey must go at whatever it will bring, of course, that brings the price of honey down and I may ask what chance has an honest bee-keeper against this class of competition? To sell without a paying profit for his

labor? He might as well give up bee-keeping and to buy the honey from them requires capital and time to sell it again. Here is what I do: If a party comes to me and tells me "I can get honey for such a price from Mr. So and So," I tell them that is the place to buy their honey. In a short time those bee-keepers have sold out and the market is then open for me. I sold all I had at fifteen cents by the single pound, or eight pounds for dollar.

Very recently an answer was given in the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL to a query on transferring bees from box hives, and fruit bloom was mentioned as the best time. This might be a very good time for the southern part of the country, but here I think it would be preferable to wait until the bees were transferred and had cast a swarm. Transferring so early would, I think, retard their building up and likely they would not swarm that season. On the other hand, after they have swarmed there would be very little brood to be in the way of transferring. A neighbor, a bee-keeper, wanted to have a colony transferred from a box hive to a Jones S.W. I told him to take a swarm first and then in eighteen or twenty days call on me again. He did so. The box hive had twelve frames all of which had a round centre bar and the combs were built diagonally. After shaking the bees out I cut the frames loose with a long knife, thus leaving hardly enough comb to fill two frames. Had to give frames with starters; there was no brood to contend with. As I had not seen the queen I told the man to give them a frame of eggs and young brood from another hive and they would raise a queen. He asked me where he would find the queen egg. Never mind the queen egg, I replied the bees will find it. After a few days I went there again and found the queen laying.

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Kilworthy, May 11th, 1888.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

A Report on Putting into Winter Quarters Early.

ON November 5th I put in 20 colonies, 24 on the 9th and 20 on the 26th. The outcome this spring is largely in favor of those put in early being stronger, cleaner, and having consumed less food and with 3 or 4 exceptions having brood in a forward state, a good many having young bees flying when first set out, on the 26th April. After being 172 and 168 days in close confinement out of the 44 I lost 6—3 being queenless which I had to double up and 3 from starvation being put in light. I tried winter feeding, but it was not a success; don't think I'll try it again.