

more per colony than I usually do, when I examined them in March I found that three had died from starvation and others would speedily have followed had they not been fed.

8. That bees winter better on a few combs than on many.—Some of those colonies which only had five combs to winter on last year came out much stronger than those that had twice that number, so one of the secrets of successful wintering is to crowd the feed and bees into as small a space as possible.

9. That spring protection pays.—Last spring was a very trying one on bees that had been wintered in the bee house or cellar as it continued so long cold and the fruit bloom was so late in opening out. A great many therefore suffered severely from spring dwindling. I tried the experiment of putting those I took from the cellar into outside cases or clamps and packing them with chaff. The result was that they all survived and became so strong that I could not keep them from swarming.

10. That it pays much better to raise extracted honey than comb. It seems impossible to prevent colonies devoted to comb honey from swarming. When you get them started to work nicely upon the section, they take the swarming fever and nearly all the workers leave the hive and by the time their place is supplied, the season may be nearly over, and you are left with a large number of sections partially filled. What pays best in my estimation is to go in for extracted honey. Give lots of room so as to prevent swarming, and extract about once a week during the honey flow. I use the large Jones hive, and tier them up two or three deep, and this last season I must have received as much as one hundred and fifty pounds from the strongest colonies; whereas some of those for comb honey did not fill one case of sections.

J. CARSWELL,

Bond Head, Sep. 3rd, 91.

The above clearly indicates that the Rev. Mr. Carswell should not fail to give us more of his experience. The many points in the above article are well taken. We would suggest that no one extract as late as this, to feed back sugar syrup in place of honey, but what he says is quite true, that close extracting may be indulged in, in the honey season, with assurance that if the season is short, and the stores scarce it is perfectly safe to fill up with sugar syrup. Mr. Carswell's experience agrees with others in the northern localities, that extracted honey pays best. Sometimes it is well to have a little of both, as

you occasionally find a customer who prefers comb honey, or perhaps we had better when selling them comb honey, induce them to take a little extracted as well, when they will soon become weaned from the comb honey to the extracted.

Mr. Carswell's system of packing outdoors, where parties have not an extraordinary repository, is better than indoor wintering, in fact, with plenty of stores, we are convinced, that outdoor wintering will be as successful in the hands of the majority of beekeepers. Specialists may winter indoors more economically, so far as stores are concerned, but the setting out in the spring requires so much care, that those that are packed indoors, are less liable to spring dwindle probably Mr. Carswell will tell us his opinion of the best way to pack bees for outdoor wintering.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

#### War Among the Workers.

DEAR EDITOR,—I noticed in Bee Journal of Sep. 1st, your reply to my query, and may say that I have had similar experience to that of which you speak, but this is a totally different case, these fellows perform before robbers are awake, and after all other bees have gone to bed, providing the weather is warm. To a sensitive nature, it is positively painful to watch them, for they seem actually grievously tormented, especially those that do the nibbling and gnawing, as I cannot see anything wrong at all with the victim or bee that has to submit to the unfeeling mercies shall I say—of her fellow companions. One of them will seize an apparently harmless and quiet bee, generally by the wing, and then two or three others will immediately take a hand in, one on either side, one on top, and one in front, and possibly two or more on top of those again, trying to get down at the poor victim, but always in every case they try to get at and do their gnawing and nibbling at the top and back part of the head, the thorax, and the wings close to their union with the body. The poor unfortunate will stand all of this very well for a few moments, like a bee that is being cleaned up, but very soon tires of it and then begins a struggle for her liberty but has to be a pretty smart one if she regains it again for some minutes, possibly five, ten or even fifteen. With regard to the dead, especially the few that seem to have received the fatal sting. I