

## HONEY FAMINE IS IN SIGHT

A honey famine is in sight so far as the Ottawa Valley is concerned.

The bees are practically all dead.

They have been starved to death.

Last summer, as has already been told was a very poor summer for bees. It was for time too dry, then for a long time it was too wet. The bees did not get a chance to work. The result was that in the fall they not only did not have enough honey made to yield their owners a supply, but in many cases they did not have enough stored to last themselves through the winter.

In order to try and pull the bees through most bee-keepers had not only to leave the honey that was in the hives, but to feed the bees with sugar.

Despite these efforts most of the bees have died.

Mr. Percy H. Selwyn, of Ottawa, who has a large apiary at Kirk's Ferry, said, that out of eighty hives he had, fifty are dead.

It is also learned that Messrs. Geo. Johnson and Robert Ince, who had 150 hives near New Chelsea village, will only have some dozen hives left.

Mr. Selwyn says he believes that farmers all through the Ottawa valley will be similarly affected.

So unless the bees in other parts of Canada have been more fortunate there will be a severe honey stringency around here.—Ottawa Evening Journal.

In the experience of everyone who is in close touch with the industry, nothing is more plainly taught than that procrastination is the thief of honey. This old enemy of the craft does more to ruin the harvest than rain or cold, than robber bees or robber boys.—Irish Bee Journal.

## Q u e r i e s — A N D — A n s w e r s

[Department conducted by Mr. R. H. Smith, St. Thomas, Ontario. Queries may sent direct to Mr. Smith or to the office of the Canadian Bee Journal.]

### QUESTION

Do you consider it best to make wax out of comb whereon bees have died in wintering, or to transfer some of the strong colonies after a while into larger boxes and give them a couple of these combs for breeding in?

### ANSWER

If the combs are clean worker comb with but little pollen in them I would use them again.

Should there be any dead bees in the combs I would give one or two at a time to strong colonies and they will soon clean them out. If the combs were old and crooked or drone size of cell, render them into wax.

### QUESTION

Do you find that the bees work upon and draw out well extracting combs with comb foundation that they have had the previous year on which they had only drawn out a little near the top bar without storing any honey?—"Lochaber".

### ANSWER

Comb foundation that is left with the bees any length of time after the honey season is not readily accepted. The following season they will draw it out if crowded but will accept new foundation more readily.—R. H. S.