

when is the best time to do it? My colonies are strong [and the hives are well filled with honey.]—J. B. Stanclift.

Answer.—“My own opinion is, that much uniting will damage you; that the single colony is worth more to go into winter quarters with, than the proposed “doubled up” ones. Often the results of such doubling prove less merciful to the bees than a sponge of chloroform. Where bees are to be destroyed I advise the following: “Take up” the colony at that time when they cease to gather more than they consume. About 21 days before that time arrives (as near as you can guess), remove the queen. This stops the breeding and the gathering of pollen to a great extent, thus giving you less bees and bee bread, and more honey at the time of reducing your numbers.

Some object to the killing of the bees, but some of these persons encourage the killing of cows and calves by daily consuming large proportions of beef and veal. Laying aside the question of “cruelty to animals” there are many advantages in this “taking up” plan:

- 1 By so doing you raise the standard of your colony rapidly, by destroying the inferior queens.
- 2 It saves the purchase of many supplies.
- 3 It tends to prevent opposition in your field and market.

If you reduce your number of colonies to just what you need the following spring you should be pretty sure of safely carrying that number through the winter.

You see Mr. Editor this question is not altogether new, the foregoing appearing in the A. B. J. over six years ago, and Mr. Schultz’ “murder” of a colony took place four years ago.

Both of these bee-keepers view the question in a reasonable manner, unlike many who, with rod or gun, will destroy innocent creatures just for amusement, but who are horrified at the thought of killing bees. I may say in conclusion that I don’t like to kill bees, and my object in writing to the C. B. J. in the first place was to learn of a better plan to dispose of surplus stock. I hope to hear from those who have had experience, as not every bee-keeper can sell to advantage.

GEO. WOOD.

Monticello, Feb 28th ’90,

When we stated that the question of destroying surplus bees was a “new one” and “one we had never thought of before in connection with modern bee-keeping” we said just what we meant. The question had never before presented itself to us in a practical form, while friend Schulz did refer to it once incidentally, we did not consider the question then as one likely to become of any serious moment, but rather as an expedient in an emergency, and our treatment of the subject in our comments at the bottom of his article we wrote with that idea in our minds. Remem-

ber we have not objected to the practice so much from a commercial standpoint, as from an intense dislike to destroy the faithful workers after a hard seasons toil, and our opposition has therefore not been so very formidable. Since your avowed object is to get information as to an “easy, quick and cheap” way of getting rid of them we cannot do better than follow your article with one just received from Mr. E. R. Buller, in which he gives his method. We have already had information on this point from two or three others.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### Destroying Surplus Bees by Brimstone.

HERE has been considerable discussion in the C. B. J. of late about getting rid of surplus bees. Although quite a number seem to be in favor of destroying them in some way, no one has yet given what I consider a good plan to accomplish that object. Now for fear some of our bee-keeping friends should be tempted to follow Mr. Alpaugh’s method, given on page 1114, Vol. V., I will venture to explain how it can be done more expeditiously and much less cruelly.

Get a few ounces of brimstone, melt it, and while in a liquid state, pass strips of cotton rag through, covering one side with a coating of brimstone; roll these strips up in pieces about the size of your finger. Take an empty section case or super, and place on top of hive, after having removed the cover: place the strips of cotton, as described above, on a plate or dish of any kind, putting the dish on top of the frames. Now light with hot coals, or any other way you prefer, cover tight with lid on top, and close the entrance of hive. In five minutes or less, nearly every bee will be lifeless in the bottom of the hive. It will be found on taking out the combs that most of the cells containing no honey now contain dead bees; to overcome this difficulty, place these combs in an empty hive, and shake the bees off the next ones to be smothered in front of this hive. They will soon all run in, when they can be treated the same as the first. In this way all combs will be free of bees but the first set used.

EDMUND R. BULLER.

Campbellford, Ont., Mar. 26, ’90.

The Apiculturist speaks of the BEE and POULTRY JOURNALS in a kindly way, and says of the present mode of publication:—“This is a pretty good arrangement. The two papers are sent for \$1.00 per year. Subscribe for them. You will get more than you pay for.”