

# The Canadian Bee Journal.

D. A. JONES & Co., Publishers.

## OUR OWN APIARY.

**I**AST year we had sometimes seven and sometimes eight bee-farms to attend to, beside three or four on the islands in the Georgian Bay, the latter being devoted to queen-rearing. From the extraordinary demand for bees this year we expect to start with only five apiaries, and fill the others up as our colonies increase. We think it is the duty of those who have bees, to sell all they can possibly spare, and a few more in fact, in order to assist our friends, who lost their bees, to utilize their combs. We have just heard from one of our friends who had 100 colonies, he set fifty out of winter quarters alive, but they had had dysentery badly, and were weak, the unfavorable weather brought on spring dwindling, and to-day he has only three full colonies left. Now, it is a great hardship to one who has labored hard till he had worked up to 100 colonies, and then to be suddenly left with but three live ones. Those extra combs should be utilized. Hundreds are enquiring for bees, with queen, by the pound, and all those who can furnish them, should advertise. From present appearances, there seems to be a bright prospect before us, honey will most certainly bring a good price the coming season, and there is every indication of a bountiful crop for those who are lucky enough to have bees to gather it. The hard sugar maple this year has yielded more honey than we ever recollect its having done before, the tops of the trees being one sea of bloom. The bees have spent over ten days on them already. The golden willow has also yielded well. Fruit bloom has done well, and some varieties are yet furnishing considerable nectar. Dandelion is also yielding

abundantly. In fact, most of the time, at our different yards the bees refuse to touch honey in the yard. The weather has been quite cool at night, but we closed the entrances of many of our hives entirely, in others we allowed but one bee at a time to pass in and out; this assisted much in maintaining an equal temperature night and day, and the brooding is carried on more rapidly. We may here say, that it is perfectly wonderful the amount of brooding that has been done in the last two weeks, considering the strength of the colonies. Another thing we noticed was that the colonies which are well filled, in fact almost over-stocked with stores of both pollen and honey, seem to be brooding most, while those that are more scant of these appear to be economising, although equally strong in bees. The scarcity of stores means less rapidity in brood rearing. Even though the combs may have to be extracted when the honey season is well opened, we think it will pay to have an abundance of food in the hive. Another feature with those with lots of stores, is, that they are less inclined to go to the fields in search of more. When bees are forced to go to the field in search of honey and pollen in early spring from scarcity in the hive, it takes away just so much of the brooding force. Any means to prevent the bees leaving the hive, or any management by which we may keep the entire force occupied in brood rearing, is most desirable with us. Feeding outside the hive is objectionable in early spring, because just as much heat is lost by the bees being outside instead of inside the hive, as if they were off in the fields gathering stores.

---

If, when ordering goods of any advertiser in the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, our friends would mention that they saw the advertisement in the JOURNAL, it will be doing us a kindness.