

"winter nest" that troubled us. You have argued the matter so well, however, that you have almost convinced us. We remain, nevertheless, a little sceptical, Friend Balmer, bless him, comes to our aid in this issue with something that looks like good argument.

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Mr. N. E. France advises us that chairman Taylor of Michigan, has announced the following officers elected for the National Association:

President—George W. York, Chicago, Ill.

Vice-president—W. D. Wright, Alton, N. Y.

Secretary—Louis Scholl, New Braunfels, Texas.

Manager—N. E. France, Platteville, Wis.

Directors—J. E. Crane, Middlebury, Vt.; E. F. Atwater, Meridian, Idaho; R. A. Morgan, Vermillion, S. Dakota.

In the ballot it was close between candidates for secretary, Morley Pettit and Louis Scholl

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It is to be hoped that the National Bee-Keepers Association will accept the hearty invitation extended by the Ontario B. K. A. at its recent meeting and hold its next convention in Canada. We'll house them in sections (of our hotels) and feed them on bee-wisdom.

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We are indebted to Mr. D. Meuser, of Elwood for three copies of old Canadian Bee Journals, when Mr. D. A. Jones was editor. They have proved very interesting reading.

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Mr. Byer has been kind enough to write us in reference to honey pails. We regret very much that we cannot get it in this issue owing to lateness of arrival. The forms were all closed before this letter reached us. It will appear, however in January. We were anxious to get the C.B.J. out this month by the 15th.

THAT WINTER NEST.

J. E. Hand.

Editor Root's statement with reference to the winter nest and your comments as published in the C. B. J., Page 358, would seem to indicate that the wintering problem is not yet solved, at least to the satisfaction of all. When editor's disagree, who shall decide. Surely not I. However, since this touches upon a matter of vital importance in the successful wintering of bees and since you ask for the opinion of others, I will endeavor to outline my views based upon an experience of 30 years of outdoor wintering in the northern States.

If Mr. Root means that bees as a rule remove the honey from the centre of a winter cluster and store it in another place for the purpose of forming a winter nest with empty cells then I don't agree with him. Right the reverse is true in my location.

That bees do crawl into empty cells when such are to be found in the centre of a spherical winter cluster can be proven by an examination of the central combs of the winter nest during cold weather. While under ordinary circumstances such a condition is far preferable to one that would compel the bees to cluster upon solid combs of capped honey, yet there are other things to be considered in forming a winter nest, besides empty cells.

To attempt to winter bees on solid combs of capped honey in the same position in which they were left by the bees with only narrow passage-ways between the combs would mean to court disaster; however, with proper attention to the correct spacing of combs for a winter cluster, I will take my chances on solid combs of capped honey. Perhaps some will say, "Oh, well, wide spacing of combs was advocated more than twenty years ago, and the practice has been abandoned long ago." To such I say, bet-