

ally short of the demand, especially on the 19th of August, when everybody buys a few pounds, in fact before that date there is very little sold. There is a demand for honey for funerals and people buy it and keep it specially for that purpose. I am sorry to say that there is plenty of adulteration with treacle, etc., and the worst of it is, there is no inspector to enquire into it.

A short time ago I heard that the government had decided to sell sugar without duty to bee-keepers. The ordinary price of soft sugar is 7 cents per 14½ oz.

As to bee pasturage, we have in this district a few golden willows, basswood, heaths, a little clover, cucumber that are grown in the gardens belonging to the work people, and wild flowers. During the four years I have kept bees here I have only seen a few bees on the basswood and last year there were no flowers on it at all. When the willows are in bloom the weather is generally too cold and wet for the bees to do anything. Our principal harvest of honey comes from the buckwheat, when we take them out on carts to the village on July 14, and have them there about a month.

I have averaged about 30 lbs. this year, no surplus last year, and about 40 lbs. three seasons ago, all from buckwheat. I would have got more surplus than I did this year if I had the time to attend to them. I am only at liberty on Sundays, and these were mostly wet when the bees were at the village.

The principal foods of the Russian peasants are salted cucumber, rye bread, sour cabbage and buckwheat porridge. So you see there is more or less buckwheat sown in every village.

If there is anything else you would wish to know further regarding bee-keeping and I can furnish you with particulars, I shall do so with the greatest of pleasure.

HERBERT KIRKHAM,

Vladimir, Russia.

QUERIES and ANSWERS

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

I. Question: What is the best material to use for packing in outdoor wintering and to what depth should it be used?

Answer—After trying chaff and cut straw, we are now using dry forest leaves, and find they are less liable to mould or harbor mice. In this locality (when more than one hive is packed in a case) about one inch of leaves in the bottom, three inches at the sides, and about six inches on top of the hives, with slats or the hive covers laid on the leaves to hold them down snug.

II. There has been considerable talk about the proper-sized entrance for hives wintered outside. What has been your experience?

Answer: When the hives are packed in wintering cases, we find an entrance about four inches wide and three-eighths of an inch deep, sufficient. If exposed to the prevailing winds I would lean a board over the entrance. At one time we used a much narrower entrance but found they became clogged with dead bees.

III. Do you leave the covers on the hives and pack over them, or do you remove them?

W.T.K.

Answer: We remove the covers and place the leaves directly on the quilt covering the frames; if this covering is much propolized we loosen the rear part and leave a slight opening to allow moisture to escape; we then lay the covers on top of the packing, as explained in answer to question No. 1.