

...The Canadian Bee Journal

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

NEW SERIES
Vol. VIII, No. 9.

BRANTFORD, ONT., MARCH, 1901.

WHOLE No
483

Annual Meeting

Twenty-First Annual Meeting Bee-Keepers' Asso., Ontario.

HELD AT
NIAGARA FALLS,
DEC. 4, 5, 6, 1900.

Experiments in Wintering Bees.

JOHN FIXTER, EXPERIMENTAL
FARM, OTTAWA, ONT.

The following eight experiments in connection with wintering bees have been made at the Experimental Farm. Four in the cellar, one in a dug in a hill-side, one in a root-house, one in the house apiary, also inside. The cellar is below a private house, the walls are of stone and the floors cement. The bee-room is five feet wide by fifteen long and ten feet high. This allows three tiers of shelves and two passages. It is boarded off from the remainder of the cellar by a partition, which runs all around the chamber, and is raised enough from the stone wall to leave a small air space. Under the cement floor a layer of small stones, twelve inches thick, act as a base and keep the cellar perfectly dry. There is also a tile drain run through the wall on the lower side. Any water near by will readily run away to this drain. The first tier is eighteen inches from the floor, the second twenty inches in the

tier above and the third twenty inches above that. Neither the hives on the third shelf, nor the uprights supporting the shelves, nor any part of the partitions touch the ceiling, so that no vibration can disturb the bees from the upper part of the house. The bee chamber is thoroughly ventilated, as is also the whole cellar. There is a three inch pipe passing through the bee chamber up to a stovepipe provided with a damper with which to regulate the draft. There is also a six inch pipe passing through the floor to a chimney which ventilates the balance of the cellar. Before entering the bee-room there is a small room with a door leading outside, and another leading to the bee room. Both rooms are provided with sliding ventilators in the doors so that outside air may be let in at will; ventilation is carefully attended to and sudden draughts or changes of temperature are avoided. For this a thermometer, which is always kept in the cellar, is watched. The best temperature for the bee cellar has been found to be from forty-two to forty-eight degrees F. This arrangement has given entire satisfaction. In former years there was not proper ventilation and the cellar was always damp. Since the concrete floor has been laid and the ventilators put in, the cellar has been much dryer and cleaner. It is also rat and mouse proof, which is a great advantage.

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