

QUESTION DRAWER

[By Mr. F. P. Adams, Brantford]

The following questions were sent us too late to be answered in the August C.B.J. As the writer has had experience only with outdoor wintering, we felt it would be presumptuous to answer the questions. We have therefore asked Mr. F. P. Adams to supply the answers. We know of no one better qualified than Mr. Adams. He is one of the exceptionally successful bee-keepers of Canada, both in the production of comb and extracted honey and the rearing of queens. He winters in the cellar, and we can recommend with confidence what he has to say thereon.

Question—(1) In wintering a number of colonies in a bee cellar, what is the proper way to pack hives?

(2) What should a hive weigh to have sufficient stores for winter in a good colony?

(3) In using foundation comb for extracting super, what is the proper grader to use?

(4) In using a shallow super for extracting, is it necessary to have a queen-excluder between?—R. R. Robb.

Answer—(1) To fix hives for wintering in a cellar I first want to know whether the cellar is damp or dry, and whether the temperature can be kept at about the proper degree. For a well-ventilated, dry cellar I leave on the honey-boards and covers over the hives, turn the bottom boards for the $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch entrance, and, after hives are placed in the cellar, raise the hive bodies about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the bottoms by means of blocks under each corner. If the cellar is damp and cool, I would still give the same amount of ventilation in the bottom. On top of the hives, instead of the tight covers, would put several thicknesses of burlap or old carpets, in order to conserve the heat, and still give a small amount of ventilation on top. The hives may be piled several tiers deep, being careful to

give the bottom boards a slight slope towards the entrances.

(2) Go through the hives now and see that at least six or seven frames are filled with honey or sugar syrup. It is not very satisfactory to go by the weight, since other things beside the stores affect the weight of the hives.

(3) If combs are wired, use light or medium brood, and if not wired, use the heavy brood foundation.

(4) Yes. F. P. ADAMS.

A FEW MORE DON'TS

Don't expect much from D. this month, as we are in Toronto exhibiting a small portion of our honey, and we are kept busy trying to hold our own with our competitors, who are receiving honey daily from Renfrew, Niagara Falls and other points. Those bee-keepers who supply the honey for the exhibitors are to be congratulated, as they will likely get a fancy price, especially the one from the Falls, as he supplied three exhibitors with comb honey, and it is all very fancy.

Don't fail to exhibit at Toronto next fall, for the way the prize list is fixed up now you need not be a producer, only a bona fide bee-keeper, with a few colonies or a lot, as the case may be, and then buy your honey all over and exhibit it as your product. See how large you would look in the eyes of the public, and you would likely feel big yourself when you looked at your banner hanging over some other bee-keepers' honey and selling it as your own product. See?

Don't fail to look after your bees this fall and see that they have lots of stores; better too much than one-half pound too little. So don't neglect your bees.

D. ANGUISH.

[My dear D., "don't" go after the other fellow too hard. Perhaps there are some extenuating circumstances. We think, however, in the interests of "true sport," that no one should be allowed to run a horse without being the owner thereof. Honey exhibited at our own country of national shows should be the production of the exhibitor.—Ed.]

BEE-KEEPING

[By O. C. Fulton]

The subject business has been in the bee papers until it has become a culture of bees in the fullest sense of the word. But in most cases it is not considered in the proper perspective. Literally, it means that the bee-keeper keeps bees for a living, and in this sense it is hardly a specialty.

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