

American Bee Journal, page 196.

"Married, Feb. 8th, '04, in—Higginsville mo., Justice J. G. Roe officiating, R. B. Leahy, Ed, and Publisher of the Progressive Bee-Keeper, to Miss. Emily Braentigam. The bride is a young lady of nineteen niece of Mr. Leahy's former wife from whom he was divorced some two weeks previously, after a married life of about twenty three years."

While our American Cousins are certainly "hustlers" in many lines of business that call forth our admiration; when it comes to the divorce business we do not, however, envy them their noble record of the last ten years. Statistics for said period are interesting if not edifying. Our earnest wish is that the time may be far distant when notices like the foregoing will appear as regular items of news in our Canadian papers.

OUR RECENT SEVERE WINTER.

As might be expected many radical opinions are being expressed relative to results of out door wintering this past season. Ed Roots says, in commenting on a "straw" of Dr. Millers, "many facts go to show that out door wintering is practical only where the bees can have one, two or three days of mid winter flight, or we will say, days when a cluster can change its position, and thus get on to a fresh supply of stores."

With all due regard to Mr. Root would venture to say there is a vast difference between his two propositions. For instance, during four out of the last five winters our bees have not had a flight for about four months in each winter, this year they have not had a flight till to-day, for exactly nineteen weeks. Certainly the bees must have changed their positions during this time as they are nearly all wintered in ten and twelve frame Quniby hives. During Dec., Jan. and Feb. there were only three days that

mercury went above freezing point: as to results for the four preceding winters, losses have averaged about 8 per cent through queenlessness and other causes.

Bees have each year been in good enough shape to average over 100 lbs per colony spring count, as to this year it is of course too early to judge, although by appearances of two yards to-day (March 24th) have no fear that results will be so disastrous as to cause me to say that out door wintering is not "practical" in our locality. The third apiary has not yet been visited this spring, as it is not sheltered from the wind are looking for heavier losses there.

Mr. Hutchinson Ed of "Review" quite properly calls attention to the fact that universal good wintering for the past few seasons has made bee-keepers careless in regard to preparing their bees for a hard winter. Doubtless this fact will be responsible for many heavy losses this year.

Mr. Hutchinson also adds that "cellar wintering is the thing for this northern climate. There is no question about it." Excuse me Br'er Hutchinson but to some of us there is a "question" about it, and it will need more proof to convince us of the "error of our ways" than has yet been offered. It means considerable if a man has two or three hundred double walled hives, to discard them for single hives in order to winter in the cellar. The proposition is all the more doubtful if you have no cellar fit for the purpose. The fact also stares us in the face, that Messrs Miller, Mc Evoy and other prominent bee-keepers in Ont. winter outdoors exclusively, some of them having discarded the cellar after having tried it quite extensively.

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