

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

Have It All Capped.

I HAVE just read Mr. Edwin France's article on page 1033, where he says: "If two-thirds is capped over, the honey is all right, don't wait any longer." Now I think he ought to wait until the other third is capped; at all events we should preach three-thirds capped, and then there will be plenty of two-thirds capped honey for sale. If we preach two-thirds capped, there will be lots of one-third capped produced; if we preach one-third capped, (the same as we did years ago) there will be any quantity of honey on the market that never saw a cap at all. Have it all capped and then you are sure that you are not extracting cells that were filled the day before. If this man's location is the same as mine, and if he will leave his clover and basswood honey in the hive until it is all capped, he won't need to bunch his barrels together in bunches "according to thickness," as it will all be first class.

Bees seem to be wintering good in this locality. My 210 colonies seem to be in fine condition so far. The thermometer ranges from 52° to 56°, midway between ceiling and floor bottom.

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FEEDING BEES IN SPRING.

IT is an old saying and a true one, that it takes more honey to spring bees than to winter them. The only opportunity for putting things to rights for spring, is during those fine days in March, when the bees are flying freely, as it is very damaging to handle them at any time during cold weather. It is always very troublesome to furnish feed to bees in mid-winter. Yet, if we have neglected the matter in autumn, we can still provide for them, but in a different manner. It will not do to feed liquids of any kind during winter. The feed must be supplied in the form of good, well-sealed combs of honey, or candy made from the best quality of sugar. This candy is as good in every respect as honey, and many think it better. It is made by boiling granulated sugar to which water has been added, and molding it into cakes or slabs of any desired form. This is placed on top of the frames of comb, where the bees have access to it at all times. A heavy packing must be applied outside the entire hive to economise the heat, so that the bees may cluster about the candy. If this matter is properly attended to at this important period, the bees will need but little attention until warm weather, when we can

safely feed syrups of any kind. From early spring until the honey flow, it pays well to feed every colony a little daily, even if they have abundance of honey in the hive. It stimulates brood rearing, and it is only by such judicious feeding that we can bring a colony up to the highest condition. It is from such that we reap the richest reward during the honey season. Such colonies are usually ready to swarm two weeks earlier than others, and powerful swarms result, instead of "hatfalls." Whether bees are wintered in cellars or in chaff hives, they should remain in their winter quarters until settled warm weather comes in, which may be from the middle to the last of April, and sometimes even later.

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

BEES IN GOOD CONDITION.

WM. J. ROBINSON.—As I have been looking at my bees I will just say that they are in good shape, the cellar registering 42° this last month. I believe that I have an A 1 cellar for wintering. The CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL is improving every number. I think no bee-keeper should be without it.

Orangeville, March 20, '88.

L. W.—Bees seem to be wintering well so far. I have forty colonies in the cellar and they have shown no uneasiness yet. I am wintering thirty colonies outside in shells packed with sawdust. I never wintered any outside before. I lost one by the cover getting off by some means or other, long before I saw it. Those outside have been flying for two days. I had three swarms snowed under by snow drifts. I let them stay so until it began to thaw, then for fear of ice forming at the entrance, I dug them out. They were all right and one had the snow thawed a foot from the front of the hive underneath the snow.

THE SEASON AROUND PORT ELGIN.

A. BECHTEL.—The season in Port Elgin for 1887 for those that keep a few colonies of bees was a very poor one for honey, and some even got no increase of swarms. I myself live three miles out of the village and right beside a large tract of waste land that has been burnt over by fire, where all sorts of wild blossoms grow. I commenced last spring with fifteen colonies, increased to thirty-six, sold three swarms, doubled up a few in the fall and put twenty-eight colonies in winter quarters which seem to be all right as yet. I tried to keep them at one swarm a-piece, but a few did cast out two swarms and I extracted 1540 lbs. of honey and I got thirty pounds of comb honey. I have got a number of full combs ready for spring use if they should be needed. My bees gathered honey in September and October, so that they increased in weight. The basswood was of short duration only lasting one week, and the honey is very strong, being