

Mr. S. T. Pettit says upon this question :

" I hope our bee-keepers may not loose their heads and run after that silly fad—the plain section.

If the bees are crowded, as I usually do mine, in order to get well filled sections, the cappings in many cases, would be fastened to the fence. A one inch projection on the sides of the sections is the proper thing. This talk about less peep poles and better finished sections is all nonsense. A tall section may look a little better but there will be no more money in it in the end. In a tall section the foundation is more liable to sag and curl out of shape than in a square one. That plain section is a delusion and a snare, in every count; if it is lighter then you must put in more honey to make it up. It takes less space in shipping cases, but is more exposed to injuries in many ways; and more than that, the vaneer will make up in cost. So after all, the gain to the poor bee-keeper is only imaginary all around. But of course every change makes business, you see."

The above from so practical a man is worth a good deal, and as far as the editor of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL and the Gould, Shapley & Muir Co., Limited, all concerned, we propose to do as we have always done, promote only such business as will be in the interest of bee-keepers. We feel sure such a course in the long run will commend itself to bee-keepers.

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What reports are in go to show that bees have come very well through the severe spell of cold weather.

Bees Those wintering in the cellar
Wintering. are, of course, not much affected by the cold weather, and the large majority of bees are wintered in this way. As far as our own bees are concerned, some weak colonies, which might otherwise have survived, have perished; but, as far as we know, colonies in good condition, when packed, are all right. They have had several good

cleansing flights recently so there is every reason to believe they will be all right.

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Aside from what has been said in the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL little, if any, attention has been paid to the question of the value of a queen which has come through the winter with a colony of bees that have wintered poorly. Bees winter well when kept in a quiet condition. They do not hibernate, but it is something bordering on this condition. When through unfavorable conditions they become active and continue in that condition that activity wears them out. It leads them to increased consumption of stores, the alimentary canal becomes filled, dysentery, etc., sets in with dire results. That such a condition of the colony, while influencing very seriously the worker bees, does not influence the queen, appears unreasonable. While it is true that in the active condition of the queen it is not her nature to leave the hive and take to wing, and that in spring the queen does not take a cleansing flight, yet the conditions which bring about discomfort and disease in the worker bees is the condition under which the queen is wintered, and upon careful reflection we would have a right to expect that the queen would suffer.

Coming to practical experience what do we find. Our experience goes to show that where a colony has been badly affected with dysentery the colony in the spring does not pull up quickly even when other conditions are favorable. More than that, a test made by C. W. Post, Trenton, with two queens in colonies having had dysentery, resulted in the same condition the following winter. This of course does not say that the second year's dysentery was the result of the first, but it is an important guide in the treatment of such colonies.

Of late years we have not had much experience with colonies having dysentery,