

ing duties in other directions it will be quite out of my power to attend your meeting on the present occasion. I must content myself with the hope of visiting you at some future time.

With regard to writing an essay on wintering bees. Well, I will say that I have turned the thing over and over again a good many times since reading your request and I find whenever I start out, my memory tells me that the same thing has been said and printed in substance many times before. So without making an attempt at writing a paper upon the subject of wintering bees, I will simply offer a remark or two that may be useful to some one.

If you succeed fairly well wintering out doors, better continue in that line for a while yet. It has its advantages as well as its disadvantages. In the meantime cellar wintering is being perfected and will in time perhaps be generally practiced in our latitude and very likely much farther south also.

All animals winter well when made *perfectly comfortable*. The honey bee is no exception to this rule. Then I would say make your bees *perfectly comfortable*. To this end they must have plenty of good sealed stores, (yes, pollen too), plenty of fresh pure air and be kept just *warm* enough to make them feel so nice and happy and good that they do not have to crowd up together at all to get warm. And in my humble opinion your bees will come through in fine condition very nearly every time.

Remember perfect comfort means perfect health or at least so far so as animal life in general is capable of enjoying that happy condition.

There should be bees of sufficient quantity in each cellar to generate animal heat to quite or nearly the desired, degree while artificial heat should be made to regulate the temperature to about 50° to 55° and at the same time to carry off the foul air.

Bees should be left in winter quarters until settled weather and until plenty of pasturage to give employment is at hand. Remember if you have a few weak sickly hives that fail to fight away robbers you had better destroy them or unite them which means about the same thing, else some of your best stocks may become confirmed thieves and robbers—bad things to have in an apiary you know.

Winter clamps. I believe, as a rule, in the hands of small bee-keepers, when the "trying time" comes, are a failure, some important feature unobserved by the novice results in disaster.

In fact I am forced to the conclusion that the sooner we discourage the idea of keeping bees in a small way the better for all parties and the country too.

The proof of my position is fully established by the fact that about forty-nine out of every fifty who keep a few bees "just for their own use" tacked on to some other pursuit, lose them all sooner or later in winter.

I am really doubtful if the wintering problem will ever be solved for that class of bee-keepers.

I am fully persuaded that it is a duty we owe to our fellow citizens to make this point clear to their minds—loss of time and money and blighted hopes are bitter ingredients in our history. Life is too short and precious to waste any portion of it in that way. Personal gain should yield to the general good.

S. T. PETTIT.

Belmont, Ont., Dec. 23rd, '85.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR HONEY MARKET.

PERHAPS no theme now that our bees are in winter quarters is of greater interest to the producer of honey. I feel my deficiency in dealing with this subject, yet my labour will not be in vain if one new idea or thought is thrown out if old ideas are more prominently brought before us, or more united efforts decided upon before the discussion closes.

Why should we cry our markets are overstocked when all we have to do is to enlarge them. Increase the consumption of an article which will stand upon its own merits when once introduced; therefore our markets have not been fully developed and consumption has not reached its full capacity until every man, woman and child uses this and no other sweet. What are the means to be employed? We can all suggest. Four years in attendance—generally selling honey—at the Toronto Industrial exhibition have given me a few ideas of the difficulties to overcome.

We want to disseminate more knowledge about apiculture, not for the benefit of the bee-keeper, but in periodicals where it will reach the masses that know nothing about it. State the progress apiculture has and is making, what vast quantities of honey are produced and consumed compared with former days, how this progress permits of such a production. Little articles written as reading matter and news of the day, will do a vast amount of good to educate the masses to consume honey. They will be interested, the idea of using honey brought before them again and again, they will realize that if they do not use honey as a staple article they will not be with the fashion—that foolish feeling and idea which sets one half the world blind to everything can be made to work to our benefit and—for once—that of its slaves.