

the weather is warm enough so that these old bees fly often, they will die off very fast, but this early brood will be hatching out and the young bees will be taking the place of the old ones, and swarms set out this early will be two weeks earlier than those set out two weeks later. After March 1st bees die off faster in the cellar than at any time before, and so will many bees die off when they have their first spring fly, but after they have a real good fly the bees will be quiet when the weather is cool and nothing to gather outside, and then the bees will not die off as fast as those left in the cellar. Until such time when the bees would fly out often when carried out, very weak swarms should be carried back in the cellar if the weather should be cold, and then you know where they are and can use them to good advantage later. I will not say any more about the weakly swarms now. We should not have very many however. By this time you will see that I am in favor of setting bees out early and get an early brood. But, Oh! how important it is to have just the right kind of a day for this first flying of our bees in the early spring. It is to me, as I have 500 swarms to set out and they are in different places too. In carrying out bees I want things handy and safe, so that inexperienced men can help to carry them out, and I even had 20 swarms on bob sleighs at one load and hauled them 100 rods to their summer stands and had not a single bee get out of its hive until I opened the entrance to the hive myself. When I begin late in the day to set out bees, I go in the cellar and in five moments have every hive closed so a bee could not get out, then open the door and hurry them out and two hours all from one cellar will be on their stands. And now when it is too late for the bees to fly, I take a screwdriver in one hand and a smoker in the other hand, and with the screwdriver raise the entrance button, and at the same time puff smoke in the entrance so that the bees will not rush out, and then I wait anxiously for a good day for my bees to fly.

It is quite important to me to have fast bottoms on all my hives. It gives me a better chance to have control of my bees. The hives are warmer as all cracks are made tight with bee glue except the entrance. Some times we have to shovel a foot of snow or more, off the stand before we carry our bees out. I did it last spring. I did it but I don't like it, as we are liable to lose bees on the snow. But when the bees are out, keep them warm as possible with quilts over the frames, and chaff on top 4 inches deep will be good to keep the top warm and absorb the moisture in cool weather.

Put a stick on top of the frames 1½ inch square. This will raise the quilt so the bees can have a passage way from comb to comb over the top of the frames in the warmest part of the hive and where the bees are sure to be. Now when you have all your bees out take good care of them. It sometimes pays to open the hives some cold morning and take out some of the combs while the bees are clustered close and move up the dummy to the bees, in hives that need it. And sometimes I put in a blanket or hay in the vacant space to help keep the bees warm.

I have been very much interested to day in reading in this March number of the Canadian Bee Journal the report and proceeding at your Toronto Convention in December last.

I guess I have now written enough of my wandering thoughts, on my practices in bee-keeping. Wishing you Canadian beekeepers success.

Middleburgh, N. Y. U. S.

Prepare For The Harvest: What Is Best to Produce.

—F. A. GEMMILL

As another season is now upon us, and the prospects of another good crop of honey appear favorable, as well as the bees having so far wintered in fair shape, it may not be amiss, to draw the attention of apiarists throughout the Dominion, to at once commence preparations (if they have not already done so) for the coming harvest. There is nothing like being prepared in time, as much worry, labor, and valuable time, may be saved by having everything in "ship shape" as the saying goes, to say nothing of a probable loss of honey for no other reason than that of carelessness. It is therefore a wise thing to have all supplies ordered, and all necessary preparations made beforehand, so that a "stitch in time may save nine."

As to what kind of honey is best for each individual apiarist to produce, is a question for themselves to decide. It is, however, not a judicious method to make any radical or wholesale change from one kind of honey production to another, and the bee-keeper who, as a rule, produces both extracted and comb honey in such quantities as his market demands, appears to succeed best in the long run. Nevertheless there are those who on account of circumstances, location, and management, can best work for the extract.