

Golden Willows and Dandelion filling the space between sugar maple and fruit blossom, dandelion the latter part of May and the beginning of June. The past three days my bees have been at work vigorously as late as 6 o'clock p.m. Hoping the above statement may convince Mr. Wood that the mistake was on his part, not mine. *Facts are stubborn things.*

Toronto, April 11th, 1887.

No doubt locality has much to do with the difference of opinion. There is a month or six weeks difference in blooming in different localities in Canada. Our bees have gathered honey from hard maple very plentifully some seasons, but they never appeared to get as much from soft maple. The willow seems to produce more honey in our locality than soft maple. It yields the first pollen that we get in spring. Nothing short of the closest observation will decide these matters accurately. We often imagine certain things to be correct when close observation proved the contrary.

BEEES WHICH WENT THROUGH A FIRE.

LEWIS MARSH.—The columns of your valuable JOURNAL being open for bee-keepers to give their experience, I venture to say something of my ups and downs in bee-keeping since I began to keep bees—spring, 1883. I purchased 2 colonies of Italians at \$7.00, increased to 4 colonies taking 60 lbs. comb honey spring count. Wintered out doors in large packing cases. Lost one—three in fine condition. Spring, 1884—bought 3 very strong colonies, blacks, box hives, increasing to 18, using foundation liberally. July, bought 3 swarms in boxes, one having been hived on the Sabbath day in a salt barrel. Took \$35 worth, mostly comb honey, from the 6 colonies and their increase. Wintered 22 colonies in clump, all placed in quarters in fine condition. Spring, 1885—lost all in wintering from dysentery. The mortality was so great in this and the adjoining counties that whole apiaries under the most skillful management were left without a single bee to tell the tale. I was very much discouraged with my luck, and, were it not that many of our most successful bee-keepers were in the same plight, I must confess the bee-keeping conceit would have been knocked clean out of me. May, I determined to make another effort. I purchased 6 strong colonies of so called Italians, at \$5.00, these did fairly well, increased to 15 colonies taking a fine lot of comb and extracted honey which I readily sold at 10 to 13 cents per pound, averaging about \$6.00 per colony, spring count.

Wintered in cold cellar from 29° to 36° above zero. The fearful rain in January left my cellar with 2 feet of water, which continued to freeze and thaw till spring. April 6th, my dwelling was totally destroyed by fire, during a most fearful gale. Rescued the bees, wind sweeping saw-dust and cloths in all directions, one person fell headlong while hurriedly carrying out one of the colonies. My pets were unprepared for this shaking up without ceremony, and being cold and unable to fly well, many were blown away or dashed to the ground, never to return. This caused 6 cases of swarming out, the bees going with their queens pell mell into other hives. Examined and found 13 had wintered finely, one killed by mice, one starved and without any honey. I had everything burnt, not a cover left to protect them from the cold. I now felt like selling out cheap. Spring, 1886, began with my 7 colonies in a half starved condition, increased by dividing to 15, afterwards bought 3 or 4 frames nuclei, choice Italians, \$8.00. Linden was a failure here and bee-men called the season a poor one. Extracted 370 lbs. selling readily at 10 cts. Am wintering 15 strong colonies in cellar, thermometer from 37° to 46°, and thus far, all are doing fine. I take the C. B. J. and *Bee-keepers' Magazine*. I am not wholly discouraged at the result and am determined to face the music another season, trusting my knowledge and experience gained thus far will enable me to find the successful way to bee-keeping.

Halloway, Ont.

KIND WORDS.

APPRECIATES THE JOURNAL.

JOHN RUTLEDGE.—I am pleased with the information I get in the BEE JOURNAL. Do not think because of my carelessness in not remitting that I do not appreciate it.

Hilly Grove, April 6th, 1887.

LIKES THE QUEEN EXCLUDING HONEY BOARD.

J. K. DARLING.—The goods ordered from you were received to-day in first class condition. I like the appearance of the metal and wood honey-board very much.

Almonte, April 11th, 1887.

PLEASURE AND PROFIT FROM ITS PERUSAL.

MISS E. CARRICK.—Enclosed find subscription. I have been remiss in not remitting earlier, but owing to your kindness in sending it on after my subscription ended, I have not been deprived of its weekly visits. Thanking you for the pleasure and profit I have received from its perusal in the past and wishing that the year upon which it is entering may be even more successful than its last.

Oban, Ont., April 11th, 1887.