

with some bees alive, and although a few dwindled out entirely, all the young queens were saved.

Some one says, "You might have known better." Of course I should, but as "fools rush in where angels fear to tread," we have at least the consolation of being able to give our experience for the benefit of other would-be experimenters. It is a question whether if, with the best system of wintering, it will pay to winter nuclei; consumption of stores is always heavy in proportion to number of bees, to say nothing of large amount of work they require to build them up—time that could be more profitably spent in some other direction. To be sure, if one has some extra choice queens that he wishes to carry over, that puts a different aspect on the situation.

What Causes Spring Dwindling?

A dozen persons would probably give as many different answers to the query. As we have had our first real experience in the matter this spring, naturally we are quite interested in the subject. On the first of April the home yard was very strong with bees. Three weeks afterwards the majority of colonies had barely enough bees to cover the brood. No diarrhoea or dampness in hives, combs clean and sweet. The old bees just seemed to go all at once. Just three miles in a direct line from the home yard is the Cashel apiary. Out of 100 colonies there, ten were queenless. Of the remaining 90, on 20th May only two had as low as four large combs of brood. As there is no fall flow at all at the Cashel yard, such a difference seems hard to explain. What makes the thing more inexplicable, 20 colonies were moved from the home yard last fall to another location, and they are all in fair condition. If I was to make a guess as to cause of the disaster,

could only attribute it to the fact that bees in home yard have a long way to go for what little early spring feed is within reach, and also to the fact that they had to fly about one-quarter mile for water needed for brood-rearing. But after allowing for these things, I remember that they had to do the same things other seasons, so "what caused the bees to spring, dwindle?" After such a humiliating confession regarding condition of my bees, needless to say, it will be regarded as presumption for any one to come around about 1st of August with the question, "How many pounds per colony this year?"

Saving Combs of Honey for Spring Use.

No better advice was ever given either to beginners or old-stagers than is the counsel of Mr. Adams in April "Canadian Bee Journal" regarding the handiness of some sealed combs for spring use. Early this spring bees seemed so heavy with honey that I doubted if I would use what combs of honey I had on hand. Steady cold, windy weather set in, and one by one combs disappeared, and to-day (May 26th) just wish I had as many as was on hand in the early spring. In fact, unless fruit bloom yields considerable a goodly number of bees in this locality will starve unless fed between now and clover bloom.

Markham, Ont.

TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS.

Say, Mr. Editor, who is guilty of making me call the "septum" of comb foundation "septane" twice in the first paragraph of my May notes?—E.A.

[That printer's devil, that printer's devil again, sure, friend Byer. We were very busy and could not watch him closely. Sorry, but our readers will pardon.—Ed.]

FINDING

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