

SPRING REPORTS

Wintered on Summer Stands.

Last fall I had four swarms. They were good and strong. From them I got over 200 lbs. of extracted honey. Our winter here is generally very severe for four months. When winter came on I decided to leave them on their stands all winter and risk them coming through. The winter was not very severe until after the New Year. Then we had snow storms several feet in depth. The hives were covered up with snow and were that way for several weeks, when a thaw would come on and melt some of the snow from the hives. I would bank them up with snow again. They came through all right and at present the thermometer is 74 in the shade. Yesterday they were out working strongly. I might state that they had three good flights during the winter. One about Christmas, and two between the 1st of January and middle of March. Can you beat that in Ontario?

I now have, in the second spring, four good strong hives.

S. M. MACKENZIE.

New Glasgow, N.S.

[You have done very well Mr. Mackenzie, but you took great chances with your wintering. We would not advise you to do so again. Put them in packing cases next time. The past winter was an exceptional one. Bees in Ontario were gathering pollen the latter part of February and first of March here, from soft maple, but last year it was a month or more later. If you winter in the same manner next winter, you will run great chances of losing all your bees.—Ed.]

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I wintered 55 colonies of bees. They came out in good shape. I took them out the 28th of March. They started to gather pollen the same day.

W. H. STATTON.

Mitchell.

Strange spring we have had for our bees. In March and beginning of April fine honey gathering from soft maple and willows, and what excellent brood rearing; a nice lot of young bees by 20th of April; also hatched drones. Some colonies had seven and eight combs of brood. Since then later kinds of willows and fruit trees have come in bloom, but it has been cold every day and hives are getting light in weight, and brood rearing greatly checked, except where stimulating feeding is done. Usually we want no such feeding before fruit bloom, but would it not have been wise this year?

As to the different wintering in my two cellars. The warmer cellar, about 40-50° temperature, was best; the other cellar, 38-42° temperature, had the bottom rows rather damp, and more dead bees on the bottom board. So warm and dry is better than too cool, even if fairly dry.

Never before had we any mixing when setting out our bees, but this year, being set out at a warmer temperature than ever before and windy besides—we got it badly—had drifting and lots of trouble with robbing afterwards. We will not set bees out again in day time at a temperature of 70°.

As the Huffman frame was so much used and recommended, I purchased a few hundred of them the last two years, but I find the narrow frame more convenient. It was said they could be handled few frames at once. Yes, but very awkward if you want to look into the center of the brood nest, when you have to move the combs right from one end, and sometimes you have to disturb the bees more than they should be, especially when examining store and brood nest in early spring.

JACOB HABERER.

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Successful Wintering—Prospects Good—Clover Seed Distribution.

My bees wintered in first-class condition and came out strong; no loss out of 25 colonies. There was not a quart of dead bees in cellar; bottom boards clean.