

I received your favor on the 15th request-me to answer several questions, which I will do as well as I possibly can.

1. It was practically nil. I only heard of two or three swarms around, here

2. They wintered well only a few colonies dying.

3. Very good.

4. Good.

5. Good.

6. I do do not know about that.

7. I think poor. I only know of one small plot, that was put in later.

8. Extraordinary. The bees appeared to be making up for last year. There was too much swarming altogether. You have asked about several kinds of honey flows, but there is one flow here of which we get more than we do of buckwheat, and which I think is more important; that is the mustard. The bees, I noticed worked well on that.

W. BOWLING.

Stratford, Ont., Aug. 17th, 1896.

I will try and answer your questions. Swarming in 1895. I had 4 swarms from my colonies, spring count, and they gathered enough to live on. 2nd. Those that had plenty of stores and well packed in clamps, wintered well. Mine did, but I lost a few by being queenless. A great many farmers lost nearly all, and some all. 3rd. Where they had plenty of stores to begin on they built up fast; where they had none, the reverse. 4th. Well, alsike has been king for nectar here. Bees began to work on it the last week in May and are working on it now. They left it for the basswood, but when it was done clover and thistles were ready for them. 5th. Basswood was loaded down with bloom but rich with nectar. Bees worked on it about ten days. 6th. I can't tell much about the thistle flow as the second crop of alsike was on at the same time, and still on the go. 7th. There is quite a lot of it down here about a mile from me. I hope for a good fall flow from it and golden rod and other fall flowers. 8th. I thought I could control swarming to a greater extent, but they did just as they pleased this season. They doubled after cutting out queen cells and returning as many as I could. I had 70 colonies spring count increased to 140. All but four are strong now. You know I am old, in my seventy first year, and I handled my bees without any help except to watch them while I ate my dinner. And I had to cook breakfast and tea for three

As you know I lost my dear wife a year ago last May with heart failure, and I have been very lonely since. But I know she is happy. I see we have lost our friend

Pringle out of the bee-keepers' ranks. I sympathize with his family.

I expect to get about 4000 pounds of white honey comb and extract. I have half off now. The alsike is not as light in color as white clover.

I forgot to tell you that my bees are not through swarming yet. I had two just lately. I hived them and put them under the old one. They are working all right. I should have got more honey if they had not swarmed so much, for it weakened the force. As you know there has not been a break in the flow since May, only when it rained, and a great deal of that came at night, and lots of it.

Yours,

DANIEL STUART.

Comber, Aug. 14th, 1896.

DEAR SIR.—Your circular of the 8th inst. asking information with regard to bee-keeping in this section received.

I may say incidentally that I did not get the July number of the C. B. J., and if you have any spare copies you might kindly send one yet as I do not like to miss any.

1. There was scarcely any swarming last year; perhaps twenty per cent. of colonies swarmed.

2. Bees generally wintered very well.

3. Bees built up very rapidly and continuously all season, so far.

4. Clover flow has been fair.

5. There were more blossoms on basswood than I ever remember seeing before; the amount of honey in each blossom was, I think somewhat limited, so I would answer "fair and early."

6. Thistle almost nil.

7. Buckwheat fair.

8. I think this year beats the record for swarming. Colonies generally throw off two prime swarms, and the first swarms swarming themselves, with the exception of day before yesterday which was cold and wet. My bees have gathered honey every day this season since they were set out, April 24th. Within the last three weeks I have lost hundreds of bees, fighting bumble bees trying to enter the hive.

JOHN GEMMILL.

Lanark, Lanark Co. Ont.

[We are always pleased to supply missing numbers of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, and have sent you the July number.—Ed.]

Your letter of the 8th, inst. to hand, and in reply would state that so far as I have