

Hives weighing forty-five pounds without the cover were not considered safe for wintering either inside or outside, but especially outside, and if risked inside should be given additional stores very early in the spring.

Mr. McEvoy spoke strongly of the value of full combs of honey for wintering in the brood chamber, and also of contracting to the number of combs that can be well covered by the bees. He attributes largely his success in wintering to this system of management, and disagrees most emphatically with Mr. Dadant that half filled combs are better than full ones.

Discussing the prices of honey suggested by the O. B. K. A. committee, the meeting considered that it was generally satisfactory, but thought it was superfluous on the part of the committee to mention the "extra 10 per cent. off" to commission men, as that class looks very closely after their own interest, generally.

To the question, "How can local associations be made more useful?" Mr. Holterman replied that we should work in a direction to produce a better article of honey, the public should be taught to judge honey, to know the difference between ripe and unripe honey, and why that difference occurs. The local society should also seek to develop the home market. Mr. Shaver spoke of the detriment of a class of honey very commonly placed on the market by parties, who don't "keep bees," but simply "have them."

At the election of officers Mr. C. Edmondson was appointed president, Mr. J. H. Shaves vice-president, and W. J. Craig secretary-treasurer. Mr. Edmondson, Mr. Shaver, Mr. D. Tattersall, and Mr. Alex. Taylor were appointed delegates to the meeting of the O.B.K.A. at Toronto.

Every duty omitted obscures some truth we should know—Ruskin.

QUERIES and ANSWERS

Department conducted by Mr. R. H. Smith St. Thomas, Ontario. Queries may be sent direct to Mr. R. H. Smith or to the office of the Canadian Bee Journal.]

Every winter so far I have lost all my bees that I have had in eight-frame Langstroth hives. Would thank you very much if you could tell me how to fix them up for the winter so as to bring them through successfully.—Thedford, Ont.

Answer.—The enquirer does not give any particulars as to the condition the hives were in at the end of the winter. Did the colonies have sufficient stores of good quality, and were the hives protected in any way? So many beekeepers are now using the eight-frame Langstroth hive, and who winter their bees in them with no greater losses than in other hives. I do not think it can be the fault of these hives.

Preparation for winter should begin in August. See that each colony has a good laying queen, with plenty of stores to carry on brood-rearing. About October 1st weigh the hive without cover, and if it does not weigh from 55 to 60 pounds, give combs of well-ripened honey, or feed best granulated sugar syrup to make it up to the above weight. Place the hive in a case about 4 in. larger each way than the size of the hive and about 8 in. deeper; raise the case about 6 in. from the ground and pack around the hives dry forest leaves or any good non-conducting material. Remove the hive cover and spread cotton cloth over the frames. Fill the case up with the packing material and cover all with a tight, waterproof cover. I omitted to say that before packing a passageway about 3 in. wide must be provided from the hive to the outside of the case, so that the bees may fly when the weather is fine. Under these conditions bees should winter every time.—R. H. Smith.