

to-day. And while your invention is original with you, it occurs to us that the same thing has been previously described in *Gleanings* or the *A.B.J.* We know that similar plans have been tried in Canada and those who used the plan can explain why it is not practised. We have ourselves put a queen into a vacated royal cell and introduced her as though unhatched. Some of our students also tried this but it is not now used in our apiaries. We shall be glad of full particulars.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

### A WAIT

FROM AN APIARIST WITH NO SURPLUS.

How doth the little busy bee  
Improve (?) each shining minute,  
In vainly flying from flower to flower  
To find "there's nothing in it,"

In spring my hopes ran high,  
But now that summer's over,  
I find there's not a surplus pound  
From linden or alsike clover.

The bees worked late and early,  
But alas! such prospects drear,  
Make me feel like one distracted;  
Not one hive will shed a tier!

I depend on my bees for a living,  
And "no honey" opens the doors  
To the puzzling, vexing query,  
How to get my winter stores?

To feed my "queen" and "brood"  
To labor I'm no shirker.  
But what if the bees won't earn  
Enough to pay one worker?

In wintering bees aright,  
Good food's the pertinent factor;  
With sugar to buy, the money goes,  
And the colonies turn extractor!

I firmly believe this season  
Is the worst that I can name;  
In person I shall be compelled  
To winter on a "shallow" frame!

With barely seventy sections filled,  
There'll be no nectar shipped;  
After a hot dry time as we have had,  
'Tis the apiarist's "wings" are clipped!

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

### THE SEASON.

**B**AD all round," say all the honey men. And so it is, if we look at the present and have regard only to increase of stock and honey gathered. Up and down and across the continent there has been a failure in these respects.

I notice, however, that most of your correspondents lay the blame wholly on the dry weather of the present year. This doubtless was a cause, but if justice is to be done the past year's drought should have part of the blame.

The fact is that the flower roots, especially those of clover, never rallied from the roasting process of July, August and September of 1887, and however favorable the weather may be in '89 for the secretion of honey the effects of the drought of the present season will seriously effect the supply. It is with clover seeds as with timothy—they could not strike root in a hard, [dry soil, and hence without rooting there is no development and no honey.

Yet I do not regard the "famine" as bereft of all good. It has already increased the price of honey; it will further increase it, and once up it will be sometime, even in the presence of a larger crop, before it will go down to the level of the past three or four years.

There are certain sections of the country which even in the unfavorable circumstances have yielded nectar abundantly. Such a section must be that occupied by the bee-keeper in Middlesex, who reported some time since an average of 60 pounds per colony, and in this country there is a comparatively large area, the Nottawasaga valley, where bees have done well. The soil is rich and moist, while there is much of it covered with forest trees, some of which are the linden and beneath their spreading and protecting branches are honey secreting wild flowers of various kinds. A week ago they were gathering abundantly from a white flower on a shrub and globular in form, also a pink flower on stem three and four feet high. Now ought not such sections to be made the most of by the apiarist? Why not remove bees from the highlands, whose soil is easily affected by absence of rain, and place them where there will be moisture even after the clouds have failed to drop for weeks? It is in this way the fruit growers act. They seek a favorable location both as to climate and soil and plant their trees. Were the apiarists to do this as generally there would be fewer reports such as you have been receiving last season and this.

J. R. BLACK.

Barrie, Aug. 18, 1888.

If we remember rightly, others have taken the same ground as our friend, Mr. Black, and have charged last season with at least one-half the failure of the present year's crop. Farmers generally blame last year's dryness for the short hay crop of this present season. At the present time we ask 15 cents per pound