

A. W. COHOB, WOODSLEE.—I have very little time to write, but wish to ask you a question or two and give you a very bad report. To begin with I send you a small bottle of honey with the wax. I wish you to examine it to see if there is anything about it that would cause the great mortality amongst the bees that we have had here the past Winter. It was gathered late in the Fall and I noticed a very strong smell from the hives at the time. I find it is the opinion of many of the bee-keepers here that this had something to do with their losses. I have combs with this honey in them which I intended giving to the bees when I got them, therefore would like to know if it would be injurious or would it be advisable to divide a colony, giving them some of those combs in each hive. I had one colony in Jones' Porus Palace hive out on summer stand, and four packed in clamp, all died in March and April with plenty of honey same as sample. The following is the Fall and Spring count of persons that I have heard from around here, the first figure shows the number in Fall, and the second the number in Spring: In the old box hives, 40-0, 40-3, 10-0, 14-0, 40-0, 40-1, 5-2. Frame hives, fed late honey, 30-0; sugar, 40-14; early honey, 5-2; no honey taken away, 20-5; late honey, 15-0; late honey, 3-0. I could give a number of others all dead but this is all I have heard of alive.

R. H. SMITH, EALING.—The reading of your report in the C. B. J. of May 1st, has not only encouraged me, but made me feel glad that you have surely solved the long "and much discussed" wintering problem, and have come out of this severe Winter with very few empty hives, while others with far less apiaries have lost their hundreds, and I am sure our whole family of bee-keepers will eventually profit by this Winter's losses, as we shall have the vexed problem of successfully wintering bees practically discussed in the C. B. J. I think the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL one of the "indispensables" to success in bee keeping. I could not get along without it. I believe the bad Fall honey tells of our losses to a great extent, especially when all the Summer gathered honey was extracted. It appears to me that the plan of Mr. H. D. Davis of feeding up as soon as extracting ceases, and when it is all sealed remove the combs until time for winter packing is a good one. I have an idea that if all but from three to six or seven combs according to the size of colony were removed before feeding up, and those that are left well spread it would be a good plan, then if the late gathered honey was all taken away and nothing left but the sugar, the bees would not die by eating bad feed.

J. RAYMOND BALL, 27—27, KNOWLTON, QUE.—On the 30th day of October, 1884, I put into winter quarters twenty-seven colonies of bees, all in Jones' hives, after feeding them up so that each swarm had from fifteen to twenty-five lbs. of stores and contracting the brood chamber to from five to seven frames. The cellar that I winter in is large and well ventilated, consequently I had to resort to artificial heat in order to keep the temperature right which is about 45 degrees. On the 22nd day of April I set them out after being confined 173 days, cleaned out the hives and commenced stimulative feeding at once to those that were short. Next day they began carrying pollen and for two days I never saw bees work better. The weather was warm as June, thermometer stood at nearly 80 in the shade. Although my bees wintered nicely yet there are those that have lost all, and no one of those living near me but have lost from about one half to three fourths of all they had in the fall. Twenty-one out of twenty-nine within a mile and a half of me have died and starvation has been the principal cause.

JAS. MCKILLICAN, LISLE, ONT.—The Fall of 1883 I put fifteen colonies in clamp, took out fifteen in the Spring of 1884, during the Summer increased to thirty-eight, but in Fall of 1884 having to leave home I entrusted the packing to Mr. McKimmie, my neighbor. They were packed as follows: They had a foot of chaff on side and eighteen inches on top with separate entrances for each hive. They were placed in clamp about the middle of November and on examination this Spring were found to be all living and in extra fine condition, with the exception of four colonies they being a little weak and three of them being queenless. My clamps are all made of twelve foot lumber, cleats being nailed on the ends of front and back board also on end boards so that it slips together like a waggon box. Hooks are placed at the corners to keep them in place. In Spring they can be unhooked and piled out of the way until the following Fall.

EMILY CARRICK, OBA.—My bees wintered very well. I had eleven colonies, seven in your hives and four in box hives, last Summer was the first time I used a movable frame hive. I put my bees in a clamp, following the directions you gave in your Fall circular. They were all alive until the 18th of April, when I lost one. The bees are almost all dead in the neighbourhood one man has lost twenty-five colonies and one living, another twenty-four colonies dead and eight living, while some have lost all. I think I am fortunate to have lost only