

self in 1851. I now have in my apiary about 83 hives which are descendants of the bees I carried on horse back in Nelson about 1845.

I have been very successful in the business as I never suffered a total loss of my bees in that long time. I abandoned the old box hive for the better rack hive about 20 years ago.

I have been a subscriber to the Canadian Bee Journal since its first publication and would very much recommend it to Bee-Keepers.

Robt. Coverdale.

### NOTES AND COMMENTS

By a York County Bee-Keeper.

#### A SUGGESTION AS TO CHEAP HIVE MATERIAL.

The following account as to how a German bee-keeper economizes, (?) I copy from the American Bee-Keeper:

"A receptacle is filled up with the paper (waste paper) and the latter is covered with water, thus it is left for several days, then it is hauled over with a garden rake and stirred smooth until it is a sort of pudding. This is then poured into forms and smoothed down. In this shape it is left to dry for several weeks, when the paper boards are dry enough to be made up into hives. They can be sawed, bored or nailed but not planed. I make the boards 1½ inches thick. The hives made from them are very warm in winter and cool in summer, well painted they resist the weather first rate, with the primitive means employed I have not been able to make hives all in one piece."

While it is not likely that paper hives will be in use in this country for

some time, yet the above account is surely a straw that indicates which way the wind is blowing. Pails, washtubs and even car wheels are being made of paper to-day, so it requires no great stretch of imagination to think of paper hives as being a common thing in the not distant future.

#### CONTRACTION OF WEAK COLONIES.

"Chaff cushions divisions are preferable to boards alone, as they are warmer", quoth the Editor of the American Bee-Keeper. He further says that all weak colonies should be contracted by division boards, of course this is orthodox teaching and will be endorsed by the majority of apiarists. For some time I was very careful about doing this every spring if any weak colonies were found, until by way of carelessness some were left with full size of hive. To my surprise found that such colonies built up just as fast as those contracted, this led to some experimenting along this line and the result has been that as far as I am concerned would not give a fig if weak colonies are contracted or not. There is something peculiar (which I am not prepared to explain) as to how bees retain the heat of cluster regardless of size of hive. We hear a great deal of putting in division boards to keep weak colonies warmer, when as a matter of fact the division boards ordinary in use have a bee space all around the ends and bottom and cannot possibly retain heat to any appreciable extent. To be sure tight fitting division boards can be used, but I venture to say that one trial will be enough unless the user is possessed of more than the usual quota of patience

#### A DEGRESSION.

At the risk of being taken to task for degressing from matters apicultural, I clip the following from the