

they were numb, but would come to life when he warmed some in his hand. He conceived the idea that, if he would cover them up in snow, they might keep that way till spring. Accordingly he covered them with bark, then with snow, so no frost could reach them. As soon as spring opened he went to them with a log hive he had prepared dug them out, put them in, and carried them home. When they got warm, all but a very few began to crawl and finally to buzz. He fed them maple syrup that he had just made. They did well. We made our hives of elm bark, by peeling it in June. We had to employ help. We passed it around a square block of wood, let it dry, then sewed one seam. We made all one size, so we could set one on top of another, each one a foot square inside, 14 inches deep. We use no foundation. We manage to get the top hive full of clear white comb. We take all of the best out of the bottom; but how do the bees live over winter, with no honey after the middle of October? Well, they don't live—at least, they eat no stores. Here is the way we do it:

The first cold nights we uncover the hives so they will get perfectly cold through, then keep them in a cool place in the shade with covers on loose, so as to keep them dry. As soon as there comes a good fall of snow, which always comes there before hard frost, we have a cave into which we pack a lot of snow, then lay dry bark on it, then the hives, then cover with dry bark, then pack about two feet of snow over them, shut all up, and cover all over nicely with snow. We never look at them till about the first of May; but if there comes a thaw we are careful not to let any wet get down. We do this by packing more snow on, and cover with green hemlock brush, so as to keep the sun off the snow. When it begins to thaw rapidly, and spring is upon us, we dig the bees out, set them in the sun with the covers off; and, if it is a fine, warm day, we have them humming in a few hours. We cover them over at night, uncover them next day, and cover at night again for the last time. Our bees are all in full blast in three days, carrying in pollen. The hives are in full strength—no sickly hives, no spring dwindling. By the first of June we have on the top hives. The only danger in putting up bees for winter our way is, if there are any hives with the least warmth left in them the bees will come to life, then smother, or starve—at any rate, die they must, and be worthless. We never lost more than two hives in that way in eight years. I now think you can all understand the cold plan of wintering bees. I suppose it would be more difficult where the winter is not cold enough. If you or any other bee-man would like to communicate with me or my

father-in-law and partner, Eagle Muskeegoon, about our bee business and management, he can do so, and can reach us by writing to my friend George Watson, Alliston, Ontario, who has a way of communicating with us. He keeps bees, and intends to try our plan next winter. He has lost most of his bees this winter already, and there is another month before they can fly here yet. There is good sleighing here now, and nearly as cold as January.

This was written for me at my request, and for the good of my fellow men, or as many as it may concern. My letter is long, but I should like to tell you something about the effect of honey by its use with Indians. The three youngest of my father-in-law's children, who were born at and after the time he began to have plenty of honey, are of much better complexion than the others. My children are soft, clean and bright-skinned—a kind of "English cream-color." My wife has noticeably improved in complexion, too, and I verily believe all this came from the liberal use of honey as a diet; but it is not only in the ones I have mentioned that the effect is noticeable, but in several other families as well; and from those facts I have not the least doubt but that if white people, especially those who are dark, or troubled with pimples on their face, would use honey liberally, it would improve their color and give them a clean, smooth skin. It would be much better for young ladies than all the potions, washes and sham drugged stuff they are eternally buying to beautify themselves. I am, sir, yours in bee-lore.

DANIEL MCFADYEN.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear Questions which have been asked, and replied to, by prominent and practical bee-keepers—also by the Editor. Only questions of importance should be asked in this Department, and such questions are requested from everyone. As these questions have to be put into type, sent out for answers, and the replies all awaited for, it will take some time in each case to have the answers appear.

BEST HONEY GATHERING BEES.

QUERY No. 152.—What kind of bees are best for honey gatherers, from a \$ and c. point of view? Do you prefer pure races or crosses, and which are your choice of crosses?

O. O. POPPLETON, HAWKS PARK, FLA.—I prefer pure Italians for practical work.

S. T. PETTIT, BELMONT, ONT.—With my experience I would say a cross with Italian and black bees.