

That man is fortunate who has his bees packed on their summer stands through this trying spring. In commenting on this matter on former occasions, we stated our preference for outside wintering because of this special feature. What an advantage it is to the bees to be tucked up warm and cosily during this cold, wet, dreary spring. Our bees are warm and dry, and have no difficulty in keeping up the heat of the brood-nest.

Notes and Comments

[By J. L. Byer]

"Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth." Pardon my seeming irreverence in giving the above quotation in the discussion of a secular matter, but really April C.B.J. gives abundant reasons for such a text being suggested. A few words re the fall treatment of foul brood, by the writer of these Notes, led to replies from others, and incidentally the matter of early inspection was brought to the front as well, and, presto! the result is an array of talent brought to the C.B.J. such as the old Journal has not often had the privilege of boasting of. We mean, of course, the communications from Messrs. France, Taylor, Wright, Gemmill et al. Surely this scribbler deserves a vote of thanks for all this, eh?

[It is hereby tendered.—Ed.]

I had not intended to say anything about this matter of early inspection, and, as far as any personal references are concerned, we care naught, as we believe we are pretty well immune from "stings," whether they come from *Apis mellifica* or the genus *homo*; but, as we have again consented to act as inspector, silence on our part might be construed by some that we were keeping "mum" for a reason, hence the matter becomes, as the doctors would say, "something concerning our professional standing."

To be brief, I wish to say emphatically that **nobody** opposed April inspection un-

der **urgent** conditions at that Brantford Convention, and Mr. Hodgetts, who was present, said that in such cases inspectors would be sent if asked for. What more could be asked for by any reasonable person? May I be pardoned for thinking that all this noise is, in my opinion, nothing but "a tempest in a teapot," and for inclining to the view that there is "a nigger on the fence" somewhere, who has not yet revealed himself. Now, as to April inspection, a short résumé of the weather of the past month might be interesting. April 1st the weather was quite balmy, and about noon the thermometer went up to 50°, allowing us to take the few bees we winter inside out on the summer stands. Then the weather turned cool and windy till about one day, somewhere about the 15th, when some other bee-men took their bees out of the cellar. On the 18th the bees brought in a very little pollen, but, as I trust all the inspectors are good Sabbatharians, I presume none of them would have done any work on the day in question, as it happened to be Sunday. From that time right up to now (May 1st) the weather has not been cool, but **cold**, with high winds nearly every day—so cold, in fact, that hardly a bee has left the hives for water right in the yard. All told, we have not had over four days in April that the clusters would be **naturally** broken, and any work done would only be done after a thorough smoking to get the bees moving. Now, I ask in all sincerity, how many bee-keepers would like to have their bees unpacked, and the brood-nests broken up, when the thermometer was at the freezing point in the month of April? As has already been stated, the Department, through Mr. Hodgetts, said that a man would be sent if asked for in an urgent case, and I want to say that **only** an urgent case would justify inspection in April weather as we get it. When Mr. Sibbald was asked at that Convention what he would do if he knew of a case of foul brood

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