

either he was not an expert in the art of butchering, or from some other cause, the most of the butchered bees came to life again. Finding their home gone they entered the other hives, robbing was started, and by the middle of October two colonies had died for want of stores, caused by robbing. The foregoing examples will show that bee-keeping in this most northern part of Ontario is yet in a very rude state, and that it was high time, to have a cheap and instructive BEE JOURNAL, which is destined to lead all those friends into a more rational way of bee-keeping, and consequently to more profit.

E. SCHULTZ.

Lethbridge, March 23rd, 1885.

When on several visits to Muskoka we noticed the valuable honey resources of the country and felt sure that some gentleman ere long would spread the good news to others; we know of no better person to do so than yourself and trust that in future you will send us reports of your operations from time to time. The dwarf maple that we saw in some places there, would alone yield a fair crop of honey. Although the honey season is not as long in Muskoka as it is farther south, yet we believe quite as much honey can be gathered, there being a continuous flow. We trust that your success may never be less than it has been.

MY EXPERIENCE IN BEE-KEEPING.

FOR the benefit of those who are thinking of giving Bee Keeping a trial I shall endeavor to tell my story. I had in the winter of 81-82, five colonies of bees in the cellar, in box hives, and happening to see an article in some of the newspapers in reference to Mr. D. A. Jones, of Beeton, Ont., being en route from the far distant countries of the east with one hundred and forty colonies of bees, I at once communicated with that gentleman. In reply he sent me his circular and kindly advised me to obtain a copy of "Cook's Manual of the Apiary." After a short perusal of this work I obtained a supply of hives, foundation, &c., and when spring opened I transferred my five colonies to the new hives. That season increased the number to 13 by natural swarming, and I obtained eighty lbs. of honey. Here let me say that I use the Jones' hive and consider it the best in the market today. These thirteen colonies I placed in the

cellar in poor condition, being short of stores. They, nevertheless, came through the long winter without the loss of a colony, but were scarcely better than neuclei, when placed upon their summer stands in the spring of 1883. I lost one colony by spring dwindling, and the remaining 12 dwindled to a mere handful each, but they came up nicely on the white clover and when the basswood opened they gave me 720 lbs. of extracted honey, and increased by division to nineteen colonies. During this season I Italianised about half my colonies from queens obtained from Mr. Jones. These nineteen colonies went into the cellar in fairly good condition, but one died during the winter from dysentery. It was during the season just mentioned that I had my experience with a laying worker. After making two or three unsuccessful attempts to introduce a queen I brushed the bees all off the combs in front of the hive; after the lapse of a few hours I repeated the operation and succeeded in ridding the hive of the drone producer and introduced an Italian queen, but only in time for the colony to "build up" for the winter as the honey season was now pretty well advanced. The spring of 1884 found me with eighteen colonies from which I obtained 1,275 pounds of honey, and increased partly by division, and partly by natural swarming, to 35. One colony, was sold leaving me thirty four now in winter quarters to all appearance doing well, except three or four which are spotting their hives considerably. Beekeeping has not been all sunshine with me. I have seen times when I would have sold out very cheaply, but, fortunately, I failed to find a buyer, and I would say to those who are not willing to give the subject a great deal of study and not a little hard work, in my humble opinion you had better direct your attention to some other and perhaps easier profession.

M. B. HOLMES,

DELTA, ONT., March, 1885.

Your success shows what may be done by tact and perseverance. No person can be successful in any business unless he gives it the necessary attention. From your past record, I have no hesitation in saying that you have a bright future before you in apiculture. I have received many similar letters during the past few years. One cause of your success is that you did not increase too rapidly. The corner stone of success in apiculture is strong colonies at all times.