

It shows up the result in an unmistakably plain way. We had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Rowat at Ottawa at the Provincial Exhibition, and enjoyed the short chat had with him there.

Allen Tringle in Canadian Live Stock Journal.

MAY AMONG THE BEES.

MAY is the month of inspiration and of opening life and activity, and to the apiarist the beginning of the honeymoon—that is to say, the season's honey flow.

Although April yields its pollen, it is not till May, usually, that the coveted nectar begins its annual flow from the fields and forests to the bives. But, promising and romantic, May sometimes has its prosaic drawbacks. In this climate it occasionally turns out cool and backward, yielding little honey, scarcely enough for the support of the bees, let alone a surplus for the bee-keeper.

By this time (May 1st), the bees are being removed from their winter quarters, at any rate in Canada and the Northern States. Those wintered outside, protected by packing and in other ways, had better be allowed to remain in their packing till the end of May, or until the weather gets warm and settled. They must, however, be overhauled now, cleaned out, supplied with food if necessary and then fixed up again comfortably warm. Those carried out of the cellar or other repository require similar treatment. The overhaul-and-fix-up should be done the same day they are set out, after they have had their cleansing flight, or as soon thereafter as possible. Sometimes the accumulation of dead bees and debris on the bottom board during the winter is so great that unless the colony is very strong the bees are unequal to the task of clearing it out, and getting apparently discouraged and disgusted with their unclean home they "swarm out" and leave. This is one reason for attending to them, soon after they are put out. Another is, they may require "crowding up," for it not infrequently happens that when they have far too much room and many more combs than they can cover, this, too, causes them to "swarm out" and leave their hive, especially as the change of temperature from the cellar to outdoors may be considerable.

In overhauling, instead of cleaning out each hive containing the colony, it is better to have one clean, empty hive ahead all the time. The frames, bees and all, can be then lifted from the occupied to the empty hive, clearing from the frames at the same time any dead bees or mold which may be adhering. And in transferring the colony from the one hive to the other

keep out such empty frames as are not needed by the bees, and only give them the frames containing brood or honey—as many as they can nicely cover, and no more. Crowd these up snugly together—that is, leaving space enough between the combs (the brooding part of the combs) for the bees to pass freely. Some, of course, will require more frames than others, depending on their strength—from, say six to eight frames for the strongest down to one or two for the weakest. The frames taken away from them can be added again from time to time as they require them.

Having adjusted the number of frames to suit the strength and condition of the colony, leaving them plenty of food, and crowd them up in snug shape, pack them up around and on top as warmly as possible to retain the heat, and contract the entrance to small dimensions, both to keep the heat in and the robbers out. As work progresses, the entrance can be enlarged as required. In covering the frames in spring with the winter quilts, I often spread newspapers between them to more effectually retain the heat, and leave them on sometimes till the middle of June or later, till the weak colony gets thoroughly built up and ready for swarming. Keeping the bees warm in spring is one of the most essential conditions of getting them through safely and avoiding the dreaded "spring dwindling." At this season of the year they are, or ought to be, actively brooding, and as the old bees are dying off rapidly, the temperature of the hive is very apt to go below what it ought to be for the safety of the young brood. The result is "chilled brood" and probably the loss of the colony. This point needs emphasizing, especially with beginners, and even those with more experience. By all means keep the bees warm in the spring. Some days and nights will be warm enough for the brood without any extra protection, but there will be occasionally cool days, and even cold nights, when the brood will get chilled unless it is properly protected. How can this be done? In any way by which the escape of the heat from the hive can be prevented. Remember, you cannot supply the bees with heat from without, further than that imparted by the sun for a few hours during a warm day. But you must direct your efforts to prevent the escape from the hive of the animal heat generated by the bees themselves. True, when you supply them with food you indirectly supply them with heat, the food being the source of the animal heat. Where the colony is very strong in numbers they are able to keep up the necessary degree of heat, by increased consumption of food, without extra protection. But it is hardly