

combs, with the capping so removed, are placed in the baskets of a honey extractor. The honey is thrown out of the cells by centrifugal force from the side next the can. The machine is stopped and the frames reversed when the reel is again started, by means of a handle, throwing the honey out from the other side. When emptied in this way the combs are returned to the hive for the bees to refill, thus saving a lot of tedious wax building.

TAKING BEES FROM THE CELLAR

Watch for the appearance of the pussy-willow bloom, or whatever pollen-bearing plant is earliest in your locality, and if the thermometer has registered 50 degrees fahr. or over during the day and indications point to continued fine weather, it is then time to take the bees from their winter quarters. The plan that has proven most successful to those who practise it is to set the bees out in the evening, commencing about sundown. The bees do not fly out of the hive until the following day and then come out a few at a time and will not mix or rob.

It is a mistake to take the bees out on a fine warm morning. About noon when the sun is hot, the bees will be having a great fly, then the wind will spring up and the bees will drift, leaving the hives at one end filled up with bees while at the other side of the yard are weak colonies which will yield a small surplus this season.

If some of the hives are taken out one evening and the balance the following night, the ones taken out first will be liable to rob the ones taken out last.

The best plan, then, is to take them all from the cellar the same night, starting at sundown.

SPRING MANAGEMENT

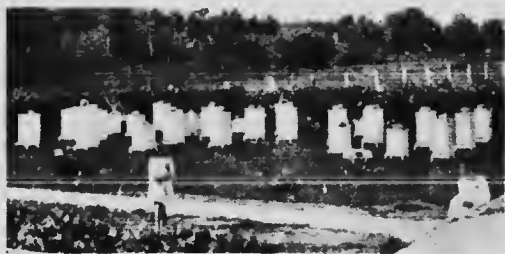
There are a number of things that have to be taken into account in spring management of bees. They may do poorly during the spring because they have wintered poorly, leaving the hive with only a few weak bees. The hive may be a poor one, having cracks or openings; or it might be set in an exposed place where persistent winds keep the inside temperature down and compel the nurse bees to huddle together, thus restricting the size of the brood nest. The hive may have a poor queen; or food might be so scarce that the bees are having a hard time to keep themselves, let alone to rear brood. The brood chamber may be crowded with old honey, thus depriving the queen of laying space.

SAVE THE BEES WORK

The first real warm day after the bees have been set on the summer stands provide yourself with an extra bottom-board, exchange it for that of No. 1

which, after thorough scraping, you exchange for No. 2, and so on through your apiary. This saves the bees a lot of hard work cleaning out the refuse that may have accumulated on the bottom-board during the winter.

On no account remove the covers until settled weather, as the brood is easily chilled. When the bees are flying freely, examine each colony to see that it has a laying queen and plenty of stores.



A corner of A. T. Harper's Apiary, Odanah Municipality, Manitoba