

prolonged honey flow, to such an one the large hive is a great boon, and very profitable. Again, a bee-keeper who at the end of a honey flow counts only his surplus and does not consider how much honey or how little the bees have for winter stores, such an one does not see the full benefit of a large hive.

A twelve-frame hive can have 50 per cent. more bees than an eight-frame, in fact, it can have even a larger number of contented bees because even with a number of supers on an eight-frame hive, owing to the contracted brood chamber the bees are more likely to get the swarming impulse, and added supers with the large hive will have more of a tendency to prevent swarming owing to its larger brood chamber. If one can handle the same number of bees in two hives and two manipulations than is done in other hives in three there is a distinct gain of time and energy. Two twelve-frame hives cost much less than three eight frame, an economy of investment. Again, in places where room is limited the same number of bees can be put on a much smaller ground space if in twelve-frame hives than eight frame. Even the small hive men delight to see a large rousing swarm and strong stocks they know that the best results are obtained from these stocks. I have a not far distant neighbor (on the fence somewhat about large hives) he is a great hand to have a colony on scales to see its gain from day to day, and quite often he reports that when the flow is about at its best "the hive swarmed and spoiled it." Intelligent small hive men act on the idea that the best results are obtained from stocks which hang together well, where they keep their bees comfortable and contented and keep down the desire to swarm, then their bees are doing best. They look for non-swarming strains (which they will never get in valuable

bees), and non-swarming methods (which they can never get, and in the direction of which we can work only as we use larger hives, ventilation and shade, for I do not call artificial swarming non-swarming), and lament when their apiary goes to pieces just as the bees begin to work well in the supers. There are exceptions with some of those who want to produce fancy comb honey, but these are exceptions. There can be no case where bees swarm and forces are divided, and two broods maintained instead of one, where the bee-keeper is not a loser in honey during the next three weeks following, providing the honey flow lasts for three weeks thereafter or a part thereof. There may eventually, in case of a long season such as clover, basswood and buckwheat, be a gain, but the clover is the most certain flow, basswood less and buckwheat a very uncertain crop to bank on. Increase taken at what it can generally be bought for in the spring is better bought than made at the sacrifice of honey. In swarming the hive that swarms in the middle of clover is depopulated, so that it is extremely unlikely that it will, for that reason, do as well in any future flow as if it had been kept together. The new swarm appears to do exceptionally well for a time, largely or altogether because it has no brood to feed, and many forget that the stock from which it came is having its uncapped honey used up to feed the brood which formerly belonged to the new swarm. I can see no reason, and believe there is no reason, why bees, contented, not having the swarming impulse, in the old hive work with less energy than those in the new swarm. Another reason why the new swarm appears to do better is because there is less work in a properly prepared hive, and the bees in the new swarm are nearly all field bees, but the other hive has so many the less. The