

kept a few colonies, had told me. I had no idea that there were any publications in the interest of bee-keeping, or that there ever would be any.

Subsequently I prepared for the ministry, and chose the life of an itinerant preacher, during which time I, of course, kept up my interest in bees, but only on a few occasions was it possible for me to keep a few colonies, which always gave me much pleasure and frequently a little remuneration.

But what rapid strides have been made in bee culture since 1865? It is entirely useless for me to mention the condition it occupied then, as it was only what ignorance and superstition had made it. True, there were some few men that made the busy bee a study, and experimented with it, but the outer world had obtained little of their knowledge. But now a brighter day has come, and the light of wisdom and knowledge and culture fully sheds its beautiful rays upon it, and bee culture has become a branch of science which has been considered by some to be worthy of all their talent, study, energy, time and money to make it their life's calling as specialists, for pleasure and for profit, and they are the people who have made the vocation better by their devotion.

The great question, at all times, has been, how to make the most honey in the best marketable condition, which, of course, is comb honey. It has long been ascertained that only a strong colony can produce surplus honey, and it was always made an object to build up strong colonies by means of feeding early and at all proper seasons, so that this process was considered an answer; but the answer was not complete, as it was also found that the largest colonies were just the ones that would begin to swarm about the time the honey flow came on, which invariably retarded the swarm from making surplus honey; so that when you inquired of a man how his bees were doing, he would simply tell you how many swarms had issued from his hive; so that now, to complete the answer to the question is—prevent

swarming, thereby making the bees work in the supers, storing away the finest honey instead of exerting their energies upon swarming. Many appliances and methods have been employed by the beekeepers to attain this end, knowing that to reach this end means to cap the climax of beekeeping, for by having strong colonies and to be able to prevent their swarming, the bees would devote all their energies to produce comb honey.

This is the sum and substance of all the study of beekeepers, and the goal of all bee literature, the one common object all are striving for, to which all else is but a side issue comparatively speaking. I have visited different apiaries in different localities, and have spoken to their keepers, and in all conversation they finally landed on this common ground, and the substance of all that I have read in bee literature is that they all aim to make the same landing.

I must now frankly admit that I believe I have fully found what all are looking for. Upon visiting the apiary (150 colonies strong) of Mr. John Conser, of Sedalia, Mo., I find that he has an invention that just fully covers the ground. I found his reasoning so logical, his explanations so simple, his work so practical, that it is no wonder to me that he is successful in his calling which he has made a specialty of for some twenty years. The height of his achievement is his "Contracted Queen Restrictive Non-swarming Bee Hive," of which he has lately received letters patent. This hive has proven itself to be a complete success. Having experimented with it previously six or eight years before perfecting the same in all its details and last year using it on twelve or fifteen colonies with perfect success, this year he used it upon sixty of his strongest colonies, the queens constantly laying and making rousing colonies; but as the queens always had room to deposit their eggs, no impulse to swarm was visible, the bees devoting their entire energies to storing away honey in the one pound sections above, thereby producing large quantities of nice comb honey for the market. Of all the colonies,