

one-pound sections, without glass, which means nearly if not quite six times the labor and expense to the bee-keeper that six pounds of honey, in one box, meant 25 to 30 years ago, so that honey really does not bring, taking all these items into consideration, much more than one-third what it did "years ago." Wherein lies the trouble? Is it not overproduction, which my old friend of years ago said would be no factor "in this generation?" If not in overproduction, wherein does it lie? Will not some one tell us, for when we know the cause we may be able to apply a remedy?—American Bee Journal.

Borodino, N. Y.

A Visit to the Apiary of W. C. Wells, Philipston.

Owing to sickness and other causes I have neglected giving a description of a visit to the apiary of Mr. Wells.

From Mr. Post's I took train to Belleville and from there drove to Mr. Wells'.

I found Mr. Wells in his apiary and hard at work. Mr. Wells was born near Napanee and has lived at his present location for 49 years. Forty years he has lived in his present house.

In reply to a question Mr. Wells said he wintered in a cellar 14x20 with a door opening to outside. The cellar was ventilated by means of a stove pipe connecting with the work shop chimney. The hives were set on shelves and the bottom boards hinged at the back were dropped two inches in front. Over them is put a quilt and a rim filled with sawdust which answers the purpose of a cushion.

The bees had been working lightly on basswood three days previous to my visit. The clover flow had been light. Mr. Wells said that he judged there would not be much honey unless the direction of the wind changed.

Mr. Wells uses a solar wax extractor, one of his own design and it has been in use for last twelve years; he uses this machine only for cappings. Old comb he breaks up and puts in a bag, then sinks the bag under the water, the wax runs to the top as it melts. The next question asked was, do you believe in ripening honey in the hive?

Mr. Wells said, "Most decidedly I do. I have tried to ripen artificially but have

never been able to do this to my own satisfaction."

"Do you try to prevent swarming? If so, how?"

"Yes, by means of shade ventilation and room in time."

Mr. Wells said he had sold \$1200 worth of honey several years, it was obtained from about 140 colonies, spring count. Speaking of comb foundation Mr. Wells was at the Centennial and there saw comb foundation. He came home and made a machine, it was cast from babbit metal. The machine he now uses is made of brass rollers and flat bottomed foundation. Mr. Wells has a roller upon which he rolls up his foundation and he unrolls it as he cuts. He had a honey extractor before any others were made in Canada. He made it himself 20 or more years ago. The bottom is so arranged the honey runs to a point in the centre and from this it runs into proper vessels.

Mr. Wells keeps mostly Italian bees. He has a few hybrids. He has tried the fire banded bees but did not find them satisfactory.

Mr. Wells lives 12 miles north of Belleville, he has about 65 colonies of bees and no swarms up to that date. He kept bees before Thomas got up his patent hive, but the Thomas was the first patent hive he used. He is in a district of country having high and low land. There is lots of alsike clover in the vicinity, a fair amount of basswood and he gets a fair amount of buckwheat, last season 1894 of the latter 3500 lbs. more than enough to winter. He uses a hive called the Wells hive 9x18 in. inside and ten frames to a hive. He adopted that frame owing to cutting off the Thomas frame and likes that frame better than the Langstroth which he tried after. For extracted honey he uses a two story hive and for comb honey a 4½x4½ section without separators. He, however, does not produce much comb honey.

In speaking of honey production in fact the question was asked, do you produce more honey now than formerly?

No the opposite. I used to produce more the last four or five years have been poorer. I used to keep 100 to 150 colonies and get better yields, it is doubtless due to poorer seasons. I used to feel quite sure of a crop of basswood honey.

"What did you get on an average years ago, 100 lbs?"

"Yes, oh yes, spring comb on an average more than that."

"Do you use more than one super for extracting?"

"Sometimes when it is a strong swarm. I left for Brockville convinced more strongly than ever, that Mr. Wells was a