Size of Frame Used.

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A correspondent writes thus: "Were you starting anew in bee-keeping, and wished to work your apiary for both comb and extracted honey, what size and style of frame would you adopt for a northern locality? I live in Canada and read the Canadian Bee Journal" In answering the above I uld simply give my preference as to imes, now used, etc, and send it to the rrespondent privately, but as he says he s a reader of the Canadian Bee Journal I have concluded to give the readers of that paper my views on the subject and tell why I would use and did adopt the styles of frame and hive I use both for comb and extracted honey. This being done, the reader can compare my reasons with those of others using different styles of frames than I do, and thus, after comparision come to a definite conclusion as to what they will adopt, should there be any unsettled in their minds in this matter. Mere assertions never help anyone to correct decision on any matter, but reasons are always helpful. When I first began bee-keeping I used the regular Langstroth frame. With this I soon found that the bees and brood were spread over too much surface for rapid brood-rearing in early spring, in so cold a climate as we have here, consequently I could not get so many bees on the stage of action in time for our early honey harvest, as I could where a more nearly square frame was used, which allowed the bees to cluster in a more compact form, or in a globe shape, as they always do where nature can have its unrestricted way. I next worked with the American frame, which was at that time 12x14 inches, as used about here. This gave a better result in bees, but it also gave so great a depth of comb, that do what I could to prevent it, the bees would always commence to store honey in the tops of the combs before they would enter the honey receptacles, which always, sooner or later resulted in the queen being crowded out of her brooding space. This caused much honey to be stored in the hive which should have been in salable shape for market, and also made the colonies too small for winter from too few bees hatching in the fall. To avoid the two extremes, I next tried the Gallup style of frame, which is $10\frac{3}{4}$x$10\frac{3}{4}$ inches inside measure. With this I found that the bees would rear brood to the very best advantage, while the brood in the central frames comes so close to the surplus arrangement that the bees would readily enter the sections, so that crowding of the queens with honey in the combs below did not happen nearly so often as with the American frames. With this hive, I found after trying it side by side with both the other two, that I could obtain nearly one-fourth more surplus comb honey each year than with the other. This hive as used by Mr. Gallup, held twelve frames, which, a little experience proved to me was too many for this locality, for in nearly all years I would have three of the outside combs full of white honey during the first half of the honey flow, and nearly that much too much honey more than was needed to winter upon. Thus I was carrying unnecessarily some $3.00 worth of honey in the hive each year, while the same could have been turned into cash just as well as not, had it been stored in sections, without damaging the prosperity of the bees in the least. I now reduced the size of the brood chamber to three-fourths of its former size, and again secured results never before obtained by way of honey in fine marketable shape, while the bees as a usual thing had plenty of honey to winter upon, the same being that from fall flowers, which did not sell as well in market. In this way I not only secured a much larger yield in the sections, but this yield was also of the very best quality, so that I obtained a higher price for it in market than before, thus giving me a double profit. Of late years I have used what is termed the "contraction" plan to a greater degree than before, securing pleasing results from the same, and although I have to sometimes feed a little for winter where so few as six frames are used, (that being the number I now give to all new swarms), still the yield in honey is enough greater to pay for the trouble in feeding. Some will say that all this requires too much attention and work, the old plans distancing it altogether along this work line, hence more colonies can be kept by the old plan and a like result be obtained. Admitted, but which is considered the better farmer, the man who employs certain help to work 200 acres of land to secure a certain yield therefrom, or the man who uses the same help on 100 acres, and secures as large if not larger amount than does the other from his 200 acres? The greatest number of colonies kept should not be our ambition but the largest yield from a given number. That the Gallup frame allows of working the smallest number of colonies with a prospect of the greatest success in comb honey, was my reason for adopting