

of twenty cents per gallon, over two cents per pound on honey from there. These duties and the wretched government of the Island itself, are what has kept our markets from being flooded with Cuban honey. Remove these two conditions and the result is plain.

There are but few movable combaparies in Cuba; so far as I know, less than a dozen in all, nearly all of them managed, if not owned by Americans. It is exceedingly difficult to get reliable statistics of the amount of honey annually produced at these apiaries, but from such facts and figures as I did get while there, and since, I judged that any well managed apiary of 300 or more colonies is safe for a yield of from 40,000 to 70,000 pounds of honey each season. As there are chances for locating such apiaries all over the Island, it can easily be seen what an enormous harvest can be obtained.

One great advantage Cuba has over any other place I know of, is that an entire failure to secure a fair crop is almost, if not quite, unknown. As well as I can learn the poorest crops will be fully fifty per cent. of the largest crops. All bee-keepers can fully understand the advantage of these conditions.

The principle disadvantages are the duties already mentioned and the bad roads, making it so costly and difficult getting honey to a shipping post. This last difficulty is so great that many owners of bee-gum apiaries in the interior of the island, so I have been repeatedly informed, practice saving the wax only for sale, pouring large amounts of honey on the ground to waste.

While there are scores of trees and plants yielding some honey, the great bulk of the crop comes from a plant, or rather vine, known to American readers of our bee journals as Bell-flower or Campana. Its Cuban name is Aguinaldo (literally a Christmas present, so called because of its being in full bloom at Christmas time.) Scientifically it is a convolvulus, not a Campanula, as was figured in one of our periodicals several years ago. (Genus *Ipomoea*, Species, *Siderifolia*.)

The few species of the genus found in the States are known as Morning Glories, only one of which, *Ipomoea Batatas* (Sweet Potato), is of material value to the human race. All the species of the genus I know of are vines with heart shaped leaves and bell shaped flowers, the one which furnishes so much honey in the West India Islands being the most profuse bloomer of them all. At times the bloom is so abund-

ant that hedges and stone fences look like snow banks from a distance. It commences to bloom late in November, continuing until late in February, January being the month of greatest bloom, with December a close second. The quality of its honey is good; color white, with good body and rather mild and pleasant flavor. It is the equal of white clover honey in color and body, and in flavor I would rank it as next to that best of all honeys. Other plants and trees furnish some honey, but the Royal Palm is of the most value I think; not because it gives any surplus honey, but because it yields every day in the year, and seems to be the only source of honey from May to September. Many colonies, unless fed, will starve to death during the summer, and many more would but for this tree.

Large apiaries have been the rule in Cuba; all movable comb apiaries I know of, having 300 to 600 colonies in one locality. I think this is a mistake but had no chance to learn whether smaller apiaries would do better.

I think it will readily be seen from what I have said, that the main points one needs to look well to when deciding on a location in those islands are, 1st; A locality with plenty of aguinaldo and royal palms. 2nd. Nearness to a port, from which honey can be shipped to a market; and 3rd., very close proximity to a rail road or a good macademized road leading to a port. While there are other desirable conditions that should be secured in a locality if possible, these three I have given are the most important.

My personal experience was in the country a few miles west of Havana, but as far as I can learn, conditions are very similar in the other parts of Cuba, and also in Porto Rico.

I have not attempted to go into the details of bee-keeping in Cuba, as it would be useless to attempt it in a paper like this. Many of the details, which it would be well for anyone who expects to go there to know, can be found on page 539 of *Gleanings for 1889*.

O. O. POPPLETON.

Stuart, Fla.

(To be continued.)

Please find enclosed one dollar for subscription to The Canadian Bee Journal for the coming year, as I cannot do without it.

P. H. MUNRO.

Grey Co., Ont.